Yorkshire Naturalists' Union

ORNITHOLOGICAL REPORT
for
1974

compiled by: John R. Mather

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Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Ornithological Section

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The Recorders, together with A. J. Wallis form the Reports Committee.

REPORT FOR 1974 — Compiled by John R. Mather

Since the reorganisation of its boundaries, some areas of Yorkshire fall into new county authorities. A few years ago, in anticipation of these changes, the Y.N.U. adopted a proposal to maintain the Watsonian vice-county system for recording purposes and this decision has been applauded in many quarters. Ornithologically this has its problems. Many birdwatchers are loyal only to their local organisation and this is apparent in most Yorkshire societies which publish an annual report; the members submit records to their society but not direct to the Y.N.U. With the co-operation of the bird recorders in each society, however, this system works well and the records are passed on to us through the society report. The new county of Cleveland which is made up of land on both sides of the River Tees almost covers the area formerly worked by the Teesmouth Bird Club. This thriving organisation has worked more or less independently of the Y.N.U. for several years and has its own Records Committee. We have had a fair, if increasingly remote, working relationship with this committee which has now decided to publish a full printed Annual Report for the whole new county of Cleveland and the active observers in the area will obviously support this move. Duplication of records south of the Tees therefore seems unnecessary. The competance of those responsible for the compilation of the new report is without question and the Ornithological Committee has decided to relinquish responsibility for this area in the knowledge that it will be adequately covered and the records published.

This issue therefore, is without the Teesmouth records, so much a feature of past reports. A new book entitled 'Birds in Yorkshire' is in preparation and will be published in 1977, 25 years after Chislett's Yorkshire Birds. This work will concern itself with the old county boundaries.

A Selected Summary of More Interesting Species During 1975

The year was a good one for Great Northern Divers and birds were seen on the coast on twelve dates at six places and at four localities inland. The October gales brought several Storm Petrels with seven at Spurn, together with a Leach's Petrel. Two Balearic Shearwaters occurred in an autumn when Manx were more than usually numerous. Sooty Shearwaters were recorded in autumn but in very small numbers compared with some years. Several Bitterns were seen, two Great White Herons and two Spoonbills. A female Blue-winged Teal was at Hornsea in August and large numbers of Pintail were at Cherry Cobb Sands in December. Several Red-crested Pochards appeared and it is difficult to imagine their origin. A Ferruginous Duck was at Hornsea Mere in early May and two Ruddy Ducks were recorded, one at Gouthwaite Res. and one at Masham G.P. Five Smews at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 8th November and one on Malham Tarn on 17th February were the only records. The origin, and destination of five Ruddy Sheldducks flying over Lindley Res. in August and two near Blacktoft in September cannot even be conjectured, similarly two Egyptian Geese at Ripon and Knaresborough on 13th and 14th July respectively.

Several Rough-legged Buzzards were again reported and there was another autumn influx. The Red Kite of late 1973 stayed over into mid-January and there were five Honey Buzzards, four during the second half of May and one in mid-September. Marsh Harriers were well reported and up to 20 individuals were probably involved. Only two Montagu's Harriers were seen compared with numerous records of Hen Harrier. At least seven Ospreys passed through during April/May and September and the year was a record one for Hobby.

The Black Grouse population was proved to be very different from our previous knowledge of it and 150 males at a lek in March was quite unprecendented. Only two records of Quail and three Corncrake reflected their status in the county. 15 passing Dotterel, all except one during May, typified the species trend to occur more frequently in recent years. A Long-billed Dowitcher at Hornsea Mere on 24th July was the first of the four county records to be specified. Fairburn Ings had an interesting flock of Black-tailed Godwits on 20th April when 57 dropped in, and there were 110 Bar-tailed Godwits present on the same day. Redshank continue to winter in increasing numbers and there were 80 near Settle on 13th February.

Avocets were recorded from five localities with eight at Spurn on 4th May and what may have been the same party was seen at Fairburn Ings later the same day. Wintersett Res. had a Red-necked Phalarope in September, the first in Yorkshire since 1967.

All four Skuas were represented and there were five records of Long-tails.

Mediterranean Gulls are now an annual event and there were several coastal records, Scalby Mills being the most regular locality. There were several records of Sabine's Gulls and a Ross's Gull was at Bridlington in January. A White-winged Black Tern and a Caspian Tern were at Hornsea and Spurn respectively in the autumn.

Shore Larks were plentiful at both ends of the year. A Golden Oriole was near Selby on 30th May and a Raven flew north over Fairburn Ings on 4th May; an exceptional occurrence. Perhaps the most spectacular species was the Bearded Tit with phenomenal numbers occurring at Blacktoft Sands and elsewhere along the Humber with birds turning up at several inland localities.

A Desert Wheatear at Fraisthorpe from 29th November to 2nd December was seen by many people. The year was exceptional for Stonechats and a National influx was reflected in many parts of Yorkshire. An inland record of White-spotted Bluethroat at Normanton in May was intriguing, especially so as it fed on a birdwatcher's lawn: that doesn't often happen! A Marsh Warbler was caught at Spurn on 25th May. Nine Icterine Warblers were seen at or near the coast in September and Spurn had several Barred Warblers in the autumn. The Whitethroat population was not significantly higher than in the last few years. A Greenish Warbler frequented the ever popular (for birds) Kilnsea churchyard in early September and several Chiffchaffs overwintered in the county. Only three Yellow-browed Warblers were recorded, all in October and Firecrests occurred in relatively small numbers. Two Red-breasted Flycatchers were at Spurn in October and a Tawny Pipit was at Bempton in mid-May.

Scandinavian Rock Pipits passed through at Hornsea Mere in March and April and gave excellent opportunities for studying the plumage details (see comments in the classified list). Red-backed Shrikes were more numerous in autumn than in 1973 and included one in the same Normanton birdwatcher's garden which produced the White-spotted Bluethroat.

Goldfinches again had a good breeding season as evidenced by autumn flock sizes. Twite numbers were again high and the species is certainly at a higher population level than ever before recorded in the county. A Scarlet Rosefinch was caught at Spurn on 11th September.

Crossbills were scarce and only two vice-counties had birds. 1,000 Corn Buntings at a roost on Wath Ings in November was quite exceptional. A male Black-headed Bunting at Spurn in August was likely to have been an 'escape'. A single Ortolan Bunting was at Spurn on 11th and 12th September. Roosting Reed Buntings at Blacktoft Sands peaked at 500 during January and February and again in October. Lapland buntings were seen in fair numbers on the coast in autumn and Snow Buntings were especially abundant at the year end with a remarkable flock of 850 at Atwick in early December.

Scientific names and full details of all birds mentioned in the above summary can be found in the classified list.

The Need for Field Descriptions

A list of species for which the Reports Committee requires a full written description was published in the 1973 report. It now seems desirable to add Glaucous Gull to that list in view of the increasing tendency amongst the larger laridae to interbreed. Herring and Glaucous Gulls have been interbreeding in Iceland for some time and the habit has now spread to Shetland. The resulting progeny, though not quite typical of either species, may be identified as Glaucous or Iceland Gulls by those observers not aware of the phenomenon. Furthermore, some immature Herring Gulls are subject to dilution of the feather pigmentation and this condition (leucistic), produces a very pale appearance similar to immature Iceland and Glaucous Gulls.

The committee therefore, would also welcome full details of any gull which is believed to be abberant or of hybrid origin. Published below is a note of an aberrant Great Black-backed Gull which was occasionally mis-identified as a Glaucous. Clearly there is a need for very careful appraisal of all but the most typical Iceland and Glaucous Gulls.

An aberrant Great Black-backed Gull

During a sea watch at Scarborough in early November 1974, R. H. Appleby saw a large pale gull flying north which at first sight was assumed to be a Glaucous Gull. It was not quite typical however and further inspection revealed that it may have been an aberrant Great Black-back. The bird remained in the area throughout the winter months and several observers identified it as a Glaucous. R. H. Appleby has supplied the following details:

Size and shape were exactly as G.B.B. with which it freely consorted. The plumage was basically off-white with slight ginger-brown flecking on the head. The mantle was patchy with ginger-brown markings and there was brown barring on some of the wing coverts. The primaries appeared creamy-white in the closed wing but did in fact have brown centres and inner webs. The creamy appearance of the exposed parts of the primaries was no doubt due to fading, the inner and protected parts remaining brown. This is usual in dilute specimens, the colour soon fading and the feather structure abrading more than usual. There was a faint brownish subterminal bar on the tail which was not apparent at long range. The bill colour was bluish-white for the proximal two thirds and at the tip and there was a dark area towards the tip, typical of third-year marinus. The legs and feet were pinkish-white.

New Recorder for V.C.61

As stated in the 1973 report Henry Bunce retires from the post of recorder for Vice County 61 at the end of 1974 after many years of continuous and devoted service. He will be succeeded by Dave Murray of Beverley and I take this opportunity of thanking both Henry for his long service and Dave for taking on the task. I hope everyone will give him the support he deserves. A short pen portrait follows:

David E. Murray, 26, was born in Beverley and has lived there ever since. He is at present a student at Kingston-upon-Hull College of Education and from 1968 to 1973 was a research technician in the Zoology Department of Hull University working primarily on the physiology of marine birds and insect behaviour.

He has been interested in birds since boyhood and in 1962 was a member of the Longcroft School Bird Club. He joined the Beverley Naturalists' Society at its inaugural meeting in 1966 and has taken an active part in the organisation of the Society having been their fauna recorder since 1967. He has been deputy co-ordinator for the R.S.P.B. beached birds survey for south-east Yorkshire since 1974 and is keenly interested in the River Hull valley and the coast where most of his birdwatching time is spent. His main interests are migration and bird protection.

He has travelled widely in the British Isles in pursuit of his hobby and is convinced of the important part to be played by the local Natural History Societies in fostering a sense of loyalty to the parent Y.N.U. and the chanelling of records to that body.

His address is 36 Warton Avenue, Grovehill Road, Beverley. Tel. Beverley 884072.

Co-operation from all concerned with regard to submission of details of rare birds was excellent in 1974. This has made the task of the Vice-County Recorders much easier and I appeal for your continued support in future years. Local reports have reached me in good time and the standard of most was high. Some continue to omit observers initials and some adopted the species sequence of the latest Field Guide with the corvidae at the end. This means extra work when extracting records and it is not the nationally accepted order. I recommend local report editors to use the B.T.O. Species List of British and Irish Birds published in 1971 and available from the B.T.O. at Tring.

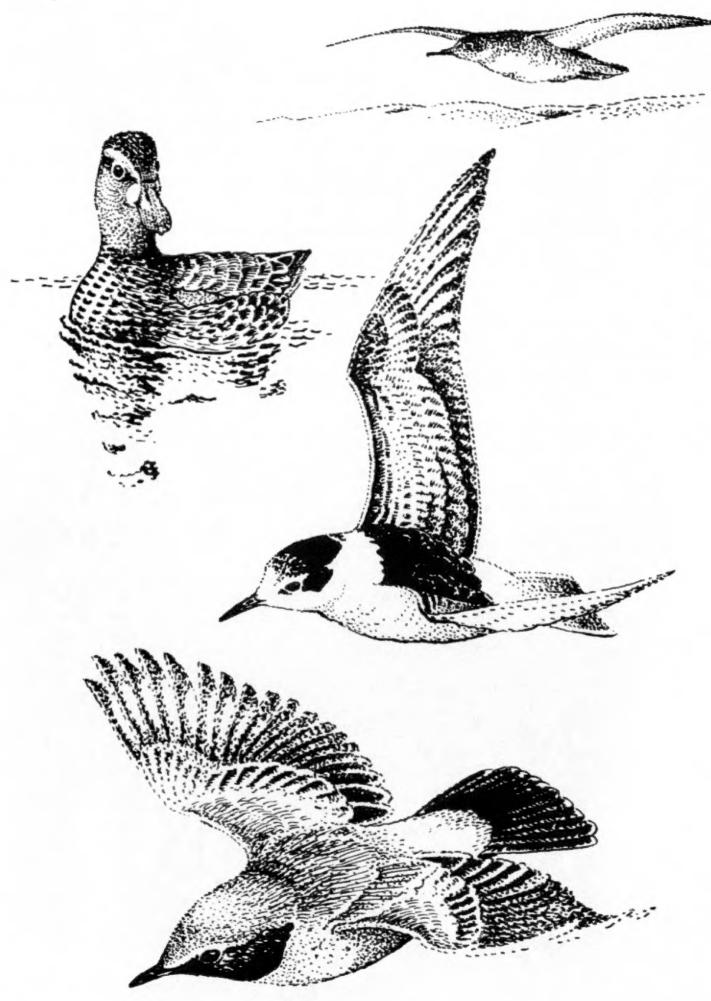
The thanks of myself and the reports committee go to all who have sent in records for this 1974 report and to D. I. M. Wallace and R. G. Hawley for drawing the illustrations. I have tried to show the general trends and indicate the present status of most common species but the information for several in this category is often strangely lacking. To list all those who have contributed notes either directly to their vice-county recorder, or via their local society would take several pages. This is clearly not possible, nor is it necessary; full names are listed only for those observers whose initials appear in the report.

John R. Mather, Chairman, Reports Committee, September 1975.

Classified List

All the rare and unusual species in the following report have been considered by the Reports Committee and found acceptable on the written evidence supplied by the observers and have also been accepted by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee where applicable.

The sequence used is that of the 1972 B.O.U. Check List of the Birds of Great Britain and Ireland as amended, and published by the B.T.O. in A Species List of British and Irish Birds 1971. The nomenclature follows that of The Status of Birds in Britain and Ireland, B.O.U. 1971.



Black-throated Diver Gavia arctica

One at Bridlington on 24th March and two flying north there on 13th April (DIMW). Two in full summer plumage flew north at Hornsea on 25th May (WFC).

Two flew south off Spurn on 22nd September and one on 22nd October. One was in Scarborough South Bay on 30th October (RHA).

Great Northern Diver Gavia immer

Seen singly in Filey Bay on 7th and 19th January (DEM.FJT), 14th and 30th March (SML. FAW). One flew north at Flamborough on 6th April (PAL) and one north at Hornsea on 12th (WFC). One was at Bridlington on 11th May (SCM).

Singles flew north at Flamborough on 21st and 22nd October (PAL.IS) and an adult was on the sea at Scarborough on 30th October (RHA). One flew south at Spurn on 28th September and one north on 29th October.

One flew north-west over Blacktoft Sands on 14th November (AG) and one was on Wintersett Res. from 16th November to 15th December (PS.JED.et al.). One flew into Swillington Ings on 12th November (JW). It was an adult showing traces of breeding plumage and what was presumably the same bird was seen flying west over Fairburn Ings on the same day (CW).

Red-throated Diver Gavia stellata

Coastal records showed fewer birds than in most years past. The largest movements noted were 127 flying north off Scarborough on 17th February and 127 flying north off Spurn on 16th March with 104 on 17th apart from which numbers were of low double figures, not exceeding 20 at any locality.

Inland, one was at Welton Water from 10th to 16th April (DIMW) and one was at Elland Gravel Pit from 22nd to 31st December (IM.et al.)

Great Crested Grebe Podiceps cristatus

About 60 breeding pairs was roughly the same number as in the past three years but success was very small in most cases. V.C.63 had the best coverage with 32 pairs at 17 different waters.

59 were on the sea off Fraisthorpe, a regular wintering area, on 12th February (AG).

Red-necked Grebe Podiceps griseigena

One found dead on Broomfleet Island on 2nd February (ACH). An adult at Filey Brigg on 29th August (CRC), one on Hornsea Mere on 6th October (RAH) and one flying north off Fraisthorpe on 7th December (SML). One at Almholme Dugout on 26th October (JP).

Figure 1. Four noteable species which occurred during 1974. (top right) Balaeric Shearwater, Bempton 31st August and Flamborough 29th September; (top left) Bluewinged Teal (female), Hornsea Mere 10th to 26th August; (centre) White-winged Black Tern (juvenile), Hornsea Mere 1st to 13th September; (bottom) Desert Wheatear, Fraisthorpe Beach, 29th November to 2nd December. Drawn by D. I. M. Wallace (not to scale).

Slavonian Grebe Podiceps auritus

One at Wintersett Res. on 31st August (PS), one found injured near Blacktoft Sands on 21st November (AG), one at Hornsea Mere on 12th October and another on 3rd and 4th November (RGH.A and JD.et al.).

Addition to 1973 report: Four at Hornsea Mere on 27th October, two on 2nd and 9th November and singles on 16th and 23rd (DEMet al.).

Black-necked Grebe Podiceps nigricollis

One at Fairburn Ings on 2nd January (CW. et al.). Two at Hornsea Mere on 24th August with three on 27th (RGH) and one on 3rd September (SCM).

Little Grebe Tachybaptus ruficollis

Occurred commonly throughout the county with several winter records from coastal localities. The maxima recorded were at Swillington Ings where there were 23 on 4th August and 34 from 25th August to mid-September (JW), and at Wentworth Woodhouse with 36 on 30th November.

Staveley lagoon had 16 (14 adults and two juveniles) on 6th September (RE); Malham Tarn, 16 on 10th September and 18 on 11th October (MVB) and Fairburn Ings, 27 on 26th October.

31 pairs bred at 18 different waters in V.C.63.

Storm Petrel Hydrobates pelagicus

One was brought in by a cat at Heslington, near York on 16th October (JHL.et al.).

One flew north off Hornsea on 29th October (RGH) on which date seven flew north off Spurn where one flew south and one flew north on 30th.

Leach's Petrel Oceanodroma leucorrhoa

One flew north off Spurn on 29th October.

Manx Shearwater Puffinus puffinus

Recorded at several coastal watchpoints on many dates from mid-April to the end of October. This was the best year on record for the species and some spectacular movements were noted.

Spurn's maxima were up to 38 almost daily from 25th May to 2nd June and another peak period from 7th to 15th June with 84 as daily maxima. 220 passed on 28th July, 119 on 10th August and 100 on 14th, the last movement including one flock of 87 birds.

214 flew north at Hornsea on 25th May (WFC). 40 flew north in one flock off Bridlington on 12th July (RL) and 89 flew north of Kettleness on 13th (PAL.IS). Regular watches off Hornsea in August produced the following counts; 140 on 5th, 40 flying south on 9th, 120 on sea on 10th, 100 on sea on 13th, 34 on 15th, 187 on 17th, 350 flying north in one flock on 19th and 87 north on 28th (DBC.RGH.DEM.SJR). Elsewhere numbers were much smaller but occurred regularly mainly during the autumn period.

One was found exhausted at Eggborough on 11th September and another in similar condition at Potteric Carr on the 16th (RA).

Birds showing characters of the Balearic Shearwater P. p. mauretanicus were one flying south at Bempton on 31st August (SCM) and one flying north at Flamborough on 29th September (DIMW).

Sooty Shearwater Puffinus griseus

Recorded off Spurn, Filey, Bempton, Flamborough and Scarborough from late August to end of October. Only small numbers were involved with eight at Spurn on 24th September, six on 22nd October, eight on 23rd and five on 27th and seven north off Flamborough on 26th October as maxima.

Fulmar Fulmarus glacialis

449 chicks were counted on the cliffs from Speeton (Red Cliff Hole) to Thornwick Bay (High Holme) in August (SCM) (South Cliff not counted). H.O. Bunce states that there were certainly at least 500 chicks produced on the whole chalk cliff range from Speeton to Sewerby.

52 sites were occupied on the Scarborough Castle Hill and 46 at Cloughton Wyke (IJP). 22 birds were on ledges inland at Stoupe Brow Quarry on 7th July (RHA).

Spurn recorded movement during April and May and again during July to September. Maxima were 120 on 11th April and 142 on 12th, 215 on 25th May and 316 on 10th August. Smaller numbers passed on many other dates.

Inland, one flew over Headingley Cricket Ground for 20 minutes in misty conditions on 23rd June (BP). One flew south over Pannal, near Harrogate, on 29th July (GTF).

Blue phase birds were seen singly at Filey and Flamborough on 6th April (CRC.PAL), Bempton on 15th April (SCM), Bempton on 10th September (SCM) and Filey on 24th September (CRC).

Gannet Sula bassana

The 'Jubilee Corner' colony at Bempton Cliffs was again studied in detail by Miss Joan Fairhurst and Henry Bunce and main details are as follows:

Several birds were on nest sites on 14th January. 86 nests were occupied and 71 eggs produced of which 60 hatched and 55 young fledged. One of a pair at a new site had been colour ringed as a chick on the Bass Rock in June 1970; the second Bass chick to breed at breed at Bempton (per J. B. Nelson). Checks from the cliff top and from a boat on 2nd June and 18th August showed no other birds on cliffs outside the extremes of the colony, the extent of which is now ca. 450 metres. The last few adults left the site with the last chick on 6th October. Three adults were flying near the sites on 29th November (TRB), ten adults were in the area on 23rd December and two were on sites on 31st (JF.HOB.SCM).

Coastal movements took place from April to November but mainly during July to November, September being the peak month. 117 flying south off Scarborough in an hour on 30th August (RHA), 200 off Spurn on 31st, 225 off Spurn on 4th September and 500 on 24th were maxima.

Inland, juveniles occurred at Fairburn on 8th September when one flew west and at Holtby, near York, when one was found exhausted, and at Blacktoft Sands where one flew inland on 8th September (AG).

Cormorant Phalacrocorax carbo

Numbers in Filey Bay were exceptional during October with 100 counted on 11th and 40 on 12th (GC.RHA) (see also Shag). Spurn had its maxima during October with 25 on 6th.

The tree roost at Hornsea Mere peaked during November and December with 50 to 60 birds regularly attending (RGH).

Occurred at 22 inland waters during January to June and August to year-end mainly singly but two birds at a few places and three at Fairburn Ings on 11th April and at Wintersett Res. during mid-April.

Detailed counts of the breeding colonies would be welcome.

Shag Phalacrocorax aristotelis

Numbers in Filey Bay were higher than ever before with 60 on 11th October and 80 on 12th (RHA.GC) and 80 on 14th December (DEM).

The Bempton/Flamborough area also showed large numbers with gatherings at the favourite roosting places of 72 on Scale Nab and 51 on Cat Nab on 21st August (SCM). 93 were at Flamborough on 12th August.

One was at Gouthwaite Res. on 3rd May (PJC). Two immatures flew into Fairburn Ings on 6th October and fished all afternoon (CW). An immature arrived at Knotford Nook G.P. on 30th October and later moved to the River Wharfe near Otley where it remained to

7th December (GTF.DMP.FAW). One was found exhausted in Sheffield on 30th October (JIM). One flew south-east over Knottingley on 12th December. One at Scout Dike Res. on 13th October (DJS.PBW).

Grey Heron Ardea cinerea

Occurred comparatively commonly throughout the county and at least 269 pairs nested (TRB). (The details of all Yorkshire heronries are to be published shortly in *The Naturalist*.)

Bittern Botaurus stellaris

One was at Saltmarsh Delph from 19th January to 24th February (WS.AG.et al.). One was seen at Hornsea Mere from 1st to 17th February, 28th February and 13th March (RGH. JESW) and on several dates from 3rd September to 5th October (RGH). One was at Blacktoft Sands on 4th and 5th August (AG). One was on the Lower Derwent near Bubwith from 2nd to 10th March (GS.BC.et al.).

White Stork Ciconia ciconia

An adult an immature near Gisburn on 15th September (R. Freethy). Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Great White Heron Egretta alba

One was at Scaling Dam from 28th May to 6th June and seen by many observers (DGB. HC.RHA.et al.). One at Spurn on 1st June came in from the east-north-east, turned south and flew over the Humber (AB.KK.RAW).

Rumours that these birds had escaped in Holland were denied by the Dutch Zoological Gardens Society (per FRS). Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Spoonbill Platalea leucorodia

An adult was at Broomhill Flash on 27th and 28th March (JH.DJS.PBW.et al.) and an adult at Hornsea Mere on 13th May (WFC).

Mallard Anas platyrhynchos

Hornsea Mere, the Humber Refuge, Eccup Res., Leighton Res. and Fairburn Ings were, as is usual, the most favoured waters for winter concentrations.

Maxima were: 1,950 at Hornsea on 31st December (lower numbers than usual): 4,100 in the Humber Refuge on 3rd February and 3,400 on 24th November: 1,250 at Eccup Res. in October and 1,750 in December: 1,500 at Fairburn Ings on 17th September and at Leighton Res., 1,200 in January, 1,200 in February, 1,850 in October, 2,350 in November and 3,000 in December. 1,000 were on Blacktoft Sands on 1st September (AG) and there were 1,500 on the Lower Derwent floods in early January. Many other waters held from 100 to 500 during the same periods.

Teal Anas crecca

In V.C.63, 26 pairs were proved to breed at eight localities. At Gouthwaite Res. eight broods totalling 40 ducklings were counted on 17th June (see 1973) (AFGW).

The year-end maxima were 1,400 at Hornsea Mere on 26th October (RGH), 1,600 on the Humber Refuge on 10th November (ACh) and 1,500 on the Lower Derwent Floods on 30th December (MVB). Occurrences outside the breeding season followed the usual pattern of small numbers at many places including small ponds and areas of marshy ground with some suitable waters attracting from 100 to 200 birds. September was the month of autumn build-up as breeders dispersed and flocked together. 400 were on Healaugh Pond on 28th November (PK).

Garganey Anas querquedula

A Pair on Wheldrake Ings on 16th March were the first of spring (HOB) with one at Stanley S.F. on 17th (CEA). The Wheldrake pair remained to 4th May. A pair at Hornsea Mere on 26th March (RGH) and a drake at Fairburn on 27th. The species is scarce now at Fairburn and there were very few records with a pair on 14th April and odd ones up to June being the only ones recorded (CW.et al.).

The species occurred regularly at Wath Ings and Broomhill Flash from 20th April to 18th August with from one to five birds involved. Odd birds and pairs occurred at a few other waters at times of passage mainly in April. One was at Healaugh Pond on 13th June (PD).

The only breeding record was near Doncaster where a pair reared five young (RJR).

Blue-winged Teal Anas discors

A female was at Hornsea Mere from 10th to 26th August (RGH.HOB.DIMW.et al.). Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Gadwall Anas strepera

Apart from at Fairburn Ings, Scampston Lake and Hornsea Mere the Gadwall was reported in only very small numbers, up to five, and mainly during August to November.

Six pairs were at Scampston Lake in the spring and one pair had five ducklings on 4th June (HOB.JHL). A brood of seven ducklings was at Fairburn Ings on 9th June and the autumn monthly maxima were 28 in July, 20 in August, 67 in September, 54 in October, 40 in November and 16 in December (CW.et al.).

Hornsea Mere's maxima were 30 in June, 15 in July, 40 in early August, 71 in late August, 72 in September, 20 in October and 23 in November and December (RGH).

Wigeon Anas penelope

V.C.61 again held the largest numbers. Hornsea Mere had 390 on 31st December as maximum. (Figure for February 1973 was also 390.) (RGH). The Humber Wildfowl Refuge had 2,400 from 3rd January to 10th February and 1,200 on 26th October and 9th November (ACh). The Lower Derwent Floods held 5,000 on 15th February (MVB) and at least 2,000 into March (GS) with 2,000 on 30th December (MVB). Blacktoft Sands had a maximum of 120 on 20th February and 90 and 70 flew inland here on 15th September and 29th October respectively (AG).

The only other water holding more than 100 was Stocks Res. where there were 210 on 6th January and 170 on 9th February with 60 on 1st March, 41 on 26th October and 65 on 14th December (MVB). 100 were at Ellerton on Swale on 2nd February (GEA) and 95 was the highest count at Balderhead Res. in Upper Teesdale on 27th March (IHF).

Elsewhere numbers did not exceed 60 birds and were usually less than half that figure at most waters. At Spurn, some southward movement offshore was noted on several days during August to November with 45 on 13th September as maximum.

Two pairs were at Grimwith Res. in May and June but no young seen this year (MVB). I have no details of the breeding population in the north-west (V.C.65).

Pintail Anas acuta

Small numbers, up to ten, but usually fewer, were seen at several waters during the winter months. The favoured waters held good numbers; 70 to 80 were on the Lower Derwent Floods during February and March (GS.et al.). 33 were on Hornsea Mere on 24th October (RGH). 100 were on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge in late October and on 5th and 30th November (ACh). 400 at Cherry Cobb Sands on 8th December (BSP) was an exceptional number. 61 at Blacktoft Sands on 17th October where 90 were seen flying inland on 1st September and 30 on the 3rd (AG).

Southward passage off Spurn involved 25 birds on 15th September as maximum. 29 flew south-west over the peninsula on 7th October.

Shoveler Anas clypeata

Status as in past years with small numbers at many places mainly in spring and autumn. The usual areas attracted the most birds with Fairburn Ings holding from 20 to 40 during the first seven months with a quick build-up to 176 on 29th August and monthly maxima thereafter of 160 in September, 65 in October, 25 in November and 36 in December (CW. et al.).

Hornsea Mere's maxima were 30 on 6th March, 80 to 90 from 6th to 13th August and 80 from 11th to 15th December (RGH). Potteric Carr, where six pairs bred, had 45 on 22nd August and 60 on 26th October. Denaby Ings held up to 50 during December. 60 were on Thorne Moor on 1st September (WHP). Malham Tarn from 22 on 10th September to 54 on 26th with 53 on 11th October, 30 on 3rd November and *none* on 30th November (MVB).

The Lower Derwent Floods showed 60 birds on 16th February (RH). 20 on 10th March and 23 in early May (DB.MR). 46 at Castle Howard on 11th September, 52 on 28th, 43 on 3rd November, 34 on 24th and 20 on 1st and 8th December (JML.SM.DB.et al.).

Mandarin Duck Aix galericulata

Single males at Chellow Dene on 30th January (ML) and at Bretton Park from 16th November to 31st December (JED.et al.). Published with the escape proviso.

Red-crested Pochard Netta rufina

A drake at Malham Tarn on 13th January (MVB). A drake at Knotford Nook G.P. on 27th April (HB.PJC). Two ducks at Staveley Lagoon on 18th September and one at Hay-a-Park G.P. from 20th to 26th October (RE.JRM.et al.). A drake at Harewood Lake on 13th October (ECS).

Hornsea Mere had several records with a drake on 11th August, a duck on 17th November, a pair on 24th November and 11th and 29th December and the drake on 15th and 24th December (RGH).

Two drakes and a duck at Tophill Low Res. on 1st December (IC.CDRH.JHL). A duck was at Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough from 18th to 26th November (MF.WAC.RHA).

It is likely that some, if not the majority of these records refer to 'escaped' birds.

Scaup Aythya marila

Apart from 13 flying inland at Blacktoft Sands on 5th January (AG) numbers did not exceed eight birds anywhere in the county. Spurn had eight on 15th April and six on 19th September and 3rd March as maxima of eleven records in all.

Birds occurred mainly singly with occasionally two at 15 inland waters principally during January to April and August to year end. A drake at Wintersett Res. on 29th June, one at Black Moss on 4th and 19th June and one at Ringstone Edge Res. on 16th and 23rd June was most likely the same bird. A drake stayed on Gouthwaite Res. from 24th May to 14th July and a drake was on Chelker Res. from 3rd June to 11th July. A drake was at Knotford Nook on 9th July.

Tufted Duck Aythya fuligula

A good breeding season at most favoured waters with the Nidderdale chain producing 167 ducklings at 14 sites (124 ducklings in 1973). Malham Tarn had six pairs with 22 ducklings on 18th July and a few more broods appeared later (MVB). Six broods totalling 40 ducklings were produced at Swillington Ings (JW) and 37 in seven broods at Fairburn Ings on 29th July (CW). Hornsea Mere had only one breeding pair which produced one duckling (RGH).

The autumn build-up at most waters followed the usual pattern with temporary assemblies of up to 200 birds on some of the larger sheets of deep water. Small waters had similar build-ups on a reduced scale. Maximum at Gouthwaite Res. was 187 on 27th July, a record number for that water (AFGW). Fairburn Ings had good numbers throughout the year with monthly maxima as follows: January 202, February 190, March 120, April 95, May 101, June 120, July 125, August 106, September 291, October 246, November 175 and December 251.

237 were at Wintersett Res. on 2nd November and 327 at Bretton Park on 23rd November (DP). 324 at Newmillerdam on 20th October.

In contrast to 1973, Hornsea Mere produced only 364 on 21st April as its spring maximum and 290 in December (800 on 7th January 1973 and 850 on 4th October 1973) (RGH). ca. 300 were on Tophill Low Res. in August and on 1st December (JHL).

Correction to 1973 Report: Malham Tarn ducklings were counted on 12th July, not 6th June.

Pochard Aythya ferina

As with Tufted Duck, the maximum at Hornsea Mere was well below that of 1973; 280 on 13th August (1973: 800 in January, 400 in February and July and 650 in October) (RGH). 900 were in the Lower Derwent Valley on 15th February (MVB).

Fairburn Ings had maxima of 277 in January and February and 201 in November. Several other waters had their highest counts from late October to December: 188 at Wentworth Woodhouse on 17th November and 100 on 31st December, 100 at Staveley Lagoon on 26th October (RE), and 105 at Malham Tarn on 30th November with 160 on 27th December (MVB). Occurred in smaller numbers at several other suitable waters mainly at the year-end.

Ferruginous Duck Aythya nyroca

A drake was on Hornsea Mere from 1st May to 5th August (SML.RGH.et al.). Published with the escape proviso.

Goldeneye Bucephala clangula

Widespread in the winter months, a few birds lingering up to mid-May and the general autumn arrival from early October. Maxima were 27 at Sawley Dene lake on 20th January (FS), 54 at Castle Howard lake on 3rd February (PH), 25 at Chelker Res. from 4th to 20th April (FAW), 43 at Gouthwaite Res. in November (AFGW), 46 at Wintersett Res. on 10th February and 59 on 22nd December (PS). Hornsea Mere had 160 on 12th April and 60 on 24th December as its maxima (RGH) and 60 were at Tophill Low Res. on 1st December (JHL). 11 flew north offshore at Spurn on 9th June and 21 were on the sea there on 26th October. 22 flew inland at Blacktoft Sands on 26th October (AG).

Several birds were seen during June with a male at Gouthwaite Res. on 2nd, one at Wintersett Res. on 16th, one at Black Moss on 4th and 19th and one at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 19th. Four were at Mickletown Ings from 13th to 15th June and a male was on Swinsty Res. during June, July and August (FAW). A male was at Staveley Lagoon on 2nd July (RE) and one to two were at Wath Ings from 28th July to 1st August.

Long-tailed Duck Clangula hyemalis

Coastal records were again numerous as in 1973, and Bridlington Bay attracted 35 on 30th March and 13th April with 25 on 15th April and smaller numbers in between these dates (RL.DIMW).

Hornsea Mere had one or two birds on several dates from 14th March to 30th April and from 17th October to year-end (RGH). Spurn had from one to three birds on a few dates from end of September to November. Two were at Filey in April and one on 12th and 13th October with two on 30th October and 23rd November (RHA.et al.). One to two birds occurred in Cornelian Bay, Scarborough, during January and October (IJP).

Inland occurrences were one at Tophill Low Res. on 21st April (REB), and one at Midhope Res. on 26th October (DH.DG).

Addition to 1973 Report: line 6, after six at South Gare on 14th January, add; and six at Redcar on same date (DJB).

Velvet Scoter Melanitta fusca

One flew north at Bempton on 29th June (SCM), otherwise all records were during February and from 30th August to November. Maxima were five at Spurn on 30th October, six in Cornelian Bay on 15th February (IJP) and 16 on 17th February (WAC).

Addition to 1973 Report: after (RHA), add; eight in Sandsend Bay on 1st January, five on 10th and six on 27th.

Common Scoter Melanitta nigra

Coastal records in every month, August to November being the main period. Maxima were at Spurn with 163 on 8th August, 250 on 28th September, 156 on 29th October and 147 on 10th November. Parties elsewhere were much smaller.

Inland records were numerous with birds seen at 18 waters (15 in V.C.63 and three in V.C.64). Numbers were usually small, up to five, and occurred mainly during April-May and late June to August. Maxima were eight at Eccup Res. on 21st April, 11 drakes at Gouthwaite Res. on 19th June, seven on Deerhill Res. on 29th June, eight on Fly Flatts Res. on 30th July and nine at Staveley Lagoon on 14th August. 49 at Worsborough Res. on 8th August and 25 on 17th October.

Eider Somateria mollissima

Occurred at Filey, Flamborough and Bridlington from February to year end. Numbers varied and were usually below ten but 26 at Filey on 12th January, 19 at Flamborough on 3rd February, 16 at Bridlington on 20th February with 20 on 10th March and 26 at Filey Brigg on 3rd August were the maxima. Odd birds occurred at Hornsea, Fraisthorpe and in the Scarborough area. At Spurn occurred in January, April, May and June and from August to year end, 14 on 12th October being the maximum.

Ruddy Duck Oxyura jamaicensis

A female at Gouthwaite Res. on 21st September stayed until 29th (PJC.et al.). An immature male at Masham G.P. on 4th October (AFGW). Published with the escape proviso.

Red-breasted Merganser Mergus serrator

Recorded on the coast from January to May and July to November (mainly in January; ten dates at Spurn, Filey and Scarborough), usually singly but up to five as maximum.

Inland occurrences were scarce and only two were reported in V.C.63; one at Agden Res. on 22nd October (NRF) and Potteric Carr on 2nd December. In V.C.64 the species occurred, mainly singly, at Chelker Res. on 27th January and 17th May, nr. Ripon (2) on 21st January, 23rd February and 22nd December, Fairburn Ings on 6th April and 13th to 14th October, Swillington (2) on 21st April and Knotford Nook on 9th April and 22nd to 23rd November.

No details were received from the breeding water.

Goosander Mergus merganser

Numbers at Hornsea Mere have decreased dramatically during the last few years and the maxima this year were eight at the end of March and ten on 10th November (RGH). 14 were on Tophill Low Res. on 22nd February. Leighton Res. held the largest numbers with 52 on 5th January, 53 on 27th January, 50 on 23rd February and 9th March and 22 on 29th December as maxima. Eccup Res. had 38 on 20th January, 41 on 10th February, 42 on 27th March, 34 on 3rd April with three on 8th May the last of spring and 27 on 1st December as maximum at year end. 31 on Lindley Res. on 2nd January, 14 on Malham Tarn on 13th January, 27 on Lower Barden Res. on 23rd February and 17 on 3rd November, 20 on Studley Lake on 13th February, 30 at Fairburn Ings on 13th January, 11 on Hury Res. in Upper Teesdale during January. 18 redheads were at Swinsty Res. on 29th August (PJC). Up to ten were on the River Ure near Ripon from January to March with a pair remaining into May. 22 were on flooded arable land near Birkin on 19th January. Elsewhere smaller numbers, below ten, occurred at several waters during January to April and September to year end. January was obviously the month of the main influx into the county.

A female with young was on the River Ure near Wensley on 12th June (GEA).

Correction to 1973 Report: line 8, 34 at Malham Tarn should read . . . at Stocks Res.

Smew Mergus albellus

Five redheads flew into Blackmoorfoot Res. in the evening of 8th November (JED). They had left by dawn next day.

A redhead was on Malham Tarn on 17th February (MVB).

Sheldduck Tadorna tadorna

About 20 pairs bred at Blacktoft Sands and a creche of 65 young was seen on 27th June. Several pairs bred inland and birds were in the Lissett area, Lower Derwent Valley (two to three pairs), Brandesburton, Saltmarsh Delph (a pair with young), Howdendyke Island and Asselby. There is an increasing tendency to breed away from the Humber in recent years (HOB).

400 were on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 8th September (ACh) and Spurn recorded its maximum of 150 on 25th September. Birds flew east at Spurn on 29th June (25) and on several dates in July and August with 107 on 20th July and 93 on 21st as daily maxima.

Inland occurrences were numerous with birds in every month of the year but mainly during January and in the autumn. 13 at Fairburn Ings on 26th March and 12 flew west on 26th August. 12 were at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 1st November. Elsewhere numbers were much smaller and did not exceed seven at any locality.

Ruddy Sheldduck Tadorna ferruginea

Five flew south-east over Lindley Res. at 0915 hours on 15th August (PJC). A pair flew inland along the River Trent, near Blacktoft on 15th September (AG). These are undoubtedly escapes and are published with that proviso.

Egyptian Goose Alopochen aegyptiaca

A pair was by the River Ure near Ripon on 13th July (DTMcA). and what were presumably the same two birds flew over Knaresborough Ringing Station next day (RE.JLCG.JRM). Published with the escape proviso.

Grey-lag Goose Anser anser

A resident flock at Hornsea Mere numbered 19 in February, 22 in March and 25 in April. Four nests were found in May, two of which were successful. 12 to 15 were present during late July, up to 24 in August, 44 during September and 21 to 44 in October. 55 on 19th/20th November and on 1st December (RGH). Six flew south-east at Spurn on 13th April and 35 flew north-west on 20th April with three other records of single birds in April. Eight flew west over Scarborough on 17th March and nine were seen regularly between 21st March and 7th April at Scalby Manor (AJW). 14 were near Ripon on 21st January (DTMcA.CS). 10 were with Canada Geese in Farnley Park on 2nd February (SB.SM). At Castle Howard Lake, five were present from 14th to 16th April, later increasing to 16. Nine on 13th August, six on 28th October, 31 on 1st December and 50 on 8th December (DB.JHL.RH). 36 flew over Haya-Park, Knaresborough, on 19th December. From one to seven birds occurred at about 15 other localities mainly during the winter months.

White-fronted Goose Anser albifrons

One at Bubwith Ings on 17th and 22nd February and from 23rd to 30th March (HOB. JHL). An adult at Hornsea Mere from 24th March to 13th April (RGH). One with Canada Geese at Ripley on 1st September was later seen with Canadas at Farnham, Givendale near Ripon, Ripley and Staveley to the year end (JO.GTF.AFGW.et al.). One was with Greylags at Castle Howard on 20th January and 24th February (A.&JD).

Six were on Blacktoft Sands from 20th to 26th January (AG). 40 flew north-west over Thorne Moor on 30th December (IF.CMcK).

Bean Goose Anser fabilis

One associated with Canada Geese by the River Ure at Givendale, near Ripon on 22nd and 23rd December (DTMcA.CS).

Pink-footed Goose Anser brachyrhynchus

Numbers on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge were about the same as in 1972 and 73 with a peak of 870 on 13th February before the last 400 on 22nd February. 18 on 18th September were the first to return and 1,600 were assembled on 13th October, the year-end peak. After 260-280 during November and December, the usual build-up took place and 1,180 were present on 31st December.

Movement connected with the late December influx on the Humber were 100 west over Harrogate and 43 west over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 1st January and 210 west over Fairburn Ings on 30th December when 400 moved west over Stanley S.F. (and six smaller skeins on same day at nearby localities).

Inland skeins were a regular sight mainly during February and from September to yearend and were too numerous to detail. 700 moving east over Thorne Moor on 17th November was the largest flock reported.

A few single birds associated with Canada Goose flocks during the summer months.

Brent Goose Branta bernicla

Spurn recorded six on 7th January, two flying south on 16th February, four on the Humber on 14th April, one from 15th to 23rd and two flying north on 27th April.

Three were at Filey Brigg on 1st March (SML) and four flew north at Flamborough on 26th October (PAL). One was on Swinefleet Common on 5th February (KN).

Barnacle Goose Branta leucopsis

At Spurn on 20th April, 33 flew down the Humber, round the point and continued north offshore. Five were on the Humber on 5th May and left to the north.

One was at Castle Howard with the Canada Goose flock from mid-March to 16th April and from 24th November to early December (RH.JHL.BC.et al.).

Five arrived at Hornsea Mere on 6th May and stayed till the 17th, returning on 22nd until the 27th and four stayed from 16th June to year-end. The origin of these birds, which were very confiding, must be suspect and are published with the escape proviso.

Canada Goose Branta canadensis

The main population is centred on the Wharfe and Nidd Valleys with large autumn assemblies in these areas, mainly Nidderdale. Some maxima were 350 at Harewood Park from January to March, 420 at Givendale, near Ripon on 1st February, 500 at Farnham G.P. in mid-September increasing to 700 by 20th October, the county's largest flock and 400 on Studley Park Lake in September.

There were 430 at Ripley, 380 at Masham G.P., 450 at Staveley Lagoon, 590 at Givendale and 580 at Harewood Lake in November.

Five flew south off-shore at Spurn on 2nd June.

A large orange-billed hybrid was at Knotford Nook G.P. from June to year end. The most likely parentage of this bird from the description received is *Canada x Anser domestic*. Four such were reared and free flying at a Knaresborough farm and were similar in appearance to the Knotford bird.

The Canada Goose Study Group was again fully active and caught 806 geese at 14 waters between 28th June and 16th July. 207 were already carrying rings and 175 were goslings (AFGWet al.). Arthur Frudd also caught at Bretton Park where the maximum was 162 on 8th July.

Whooper Swan Cygnus cygnus

Wath Ings had birds present from 20th January to 13th April with 11 on 2nd February as maximum. Maximum counts in the early months elsewhere were a herd of 26 at Swillington on 26th January, the last bird being seen here on 14th April; daily at Fairburn up to 2nd April with 30 on 14th March, 16 at Birkin on 2nd February, and 12 at Mickletown Flash on 7th February. Semerwater attracted 25 on 20th January and 13 on 25th (DTM) and 22 were on floodwater at Throstlenest, on 8th February (DTM). 27 at Almholme on 1st January.

A bird summered at Wheldrake Ings as did single birds at Treeton Dyke Res. and Welbeck Sand Quarry having remained since 1973 (RLB) and an adult and an immature

stayed throughout the year at Fairburn Ings (CW.et al.).

First of autumn were at Wath Ings on 2nd October, two over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 6th October, four at Semerwater on 10th and two at Fewston Res. on 19th, but the main arrival was not until 25th to 28th October when small parties arrived at Hornsea, Gouthwaite Res., Fairburn Ings, and Spurn. Maxima at year end were 34 at Fairburn Ings on 1st December with 40 on 16th; 31 at Mickletown Ings on 27th December (RLB); 18 on Thorne Moor on 9th November (FG), 23 at Semerwater on 16th November and 33 on 31st December (DTM): 17 adults at Allerton Bywater on 25th November (GC) and 19 at Wath Ings on 31st December (JH).

Bewicks Swan Cygnus bewickii

Apart from the Lower Derwent Valley, spring records were few and concerned only small numbers of birds except for 41 flying east at Blacktoft Sands on 22nd February (AG) and 21 on the Humber at Spurn on 17th February.

13 on the Lower Derwent on 1st January increased to 38 (14 immatures) by 9th February, 79 by 23rd and 112 (31 immatures) on 2nd March with 135 (27 immatures) on 16th March as maximum and the last were seven on 30th March (HOB.A.&JD.et al.). One was at Harthill Res. from 23rd March to 7th April (HH) and one at Fairburn Ings from 6th April to 16th May (CW.et al.).

First of autumn were 17 on the Lower Derwent on 17th October (GS) with two at Black-moorfoot Res. on 26th and one at Fairburn Ings on 27th. 50 (10 immatures) had arrived on the Lower Derwent by 9th October, 57 (18 immatures) by 17th then smaller numbers during December with a rise to 90 (23 immatures) on 26th December (HOB.A.&JD). 23 were near Howden on 8th December (BG) and 12 were on Kilnsea Lagoon on 11th December (SMC).

Smaller numbers, not exceeding 10, occurred at several other waters during the same periods.

Buzzard Buteo buteo

Buzzards were reported frequently from January to April and from July to year end. Records were mainly of single birds but in Upper Nidderdale seven occurred on 3rd November and five on 16th November and 15th December. Elsewhere records came from the moors west of Sheffield, Halifax, Keighley, and the western halves of V.C.64 and V.C.65.

One flew south at Spurn on 19th May and one was at Askern on 15th June. I received no details of the small breeding population in the north-west.

Addition to 1973 Report: one at Locke Park, Redcar on 19th September (DJB).

Rough-legged Buzzard Buteo lagonus

Several birds remained over from 1973 and there was another influx in the autumn, as last year.

At Bransdale on the North York Moors, from one to seven birds were present from January to March (DJB.RHA.JW.et al). One was on Lealholm Moor, west of Whitby in March and one was at Kildale Woods south of Guisborough, on 31st (BEP.DS-S). Two wintered in the south of the county in the area of Strines/Langsett Reservoirs and were last seen on 27th April (DH.DG.et al.). One was in Studley Park, near Ripon on 23rd February (TK), one at Gouthwaite Res. on 2nd and 3rd March (DJB.PJC.et al.). and one at Rigton on 12th March (JF).

First of the autumn records were one at Spurn on 22nd October and one at Barden on 25th and 26th October (PMW.JCL). One at Hornsea Mere on 9th November (RGH), one in the Lower Derwent Valley from 10th to 22nd (GS.PR.RH.et al.), one at Wentbridge on 10th, a second bird at Hornsea Mere on 14th (RGH) and one at Filey Brigg on 17th (IC). One returned to the Ewden/Langsett area on 2nd November and stayed to the 17th (JMD.RW.et al.). Two flew west at Blacktoft Sands on 31st October and one to three were seen there regularly to year end with four on 15th December (AG.SLJ.ML.et al.). One in Bransdale on 8th December (DJB) and two on 27th (DEM).

Sparrowhawk Accipiter nisus

The records suggest that the status of this bird continues to improve, and there were several breeding records. Reports, mainly of single birds came from all over the county, principally in the western half and were too numerous to detail.

A few passed at Spurn with singles flying south on 6th and 16th April and another present from 9th to 14th April with a second bird on 10th. In the autumn singles passed on 20th September, 9th, 19th, 22nd and 25th October.

Goshawk Accipiter gentilis

One near Spofforth on 8th September (PR), one on Thorne Moors on 28th December (SLJ). Two Goshawks were shot in the north-east of the county, one in December 1973 and the other in January 1974. A pair was seen in the same locality from July and one hopes they will not be molested. A pair was present at a locality in the centre of the county during most of the year.

Red Kite Milvus milvus

The bird seen in 1973 at a locality east of York remained until 19th January (MS.PH) and what was no doubt the same bird was seen at Leavening, north-east of York, on 3rd February (RJF).

Honey Buzzard Pernis apivorus

This species could well be overlooked and as I have said in past reports, all May/June and September buzzards, particularly in the eastern half of the county should be critically examined.

One was near Barmston on 15th May (WFC), one was at Spurn on 19th May which left to the north-north-west over the Humber, and two flew over Hornsea Mere on 1st June (RGH).

One came in over the sea at Spurn on 15th September, flew down the peninsula and left to the west.

Marsh Harrier Circus aeruginosus

Several records in the east of the county. Blacktoft Sands had six birds; a male on 14th April, a creamcrown from 8th to 13th May, a male on 18th May, a different male on 26th May, a creamcrown from 23rd August to 1st September, and a male on 25th and 26th August (AG).

Nearby Thorne Moor had a male on 19th April (ML.CW) and a female on 1st May (WHP) with a male on 30th August (JH.NA).

Two creamcrowns were at Hornsea Mere on 6th May, singles on 7th, 13th and 15th May, two on 19th and one on 27th (RGH.SCM). One at Flamborough on 27th May (HOB.JF) and one at Lowthorpe, near Great Driffield on 8th June (DEM).

A creamcrown flew south at Spurn on 20th May.

Hen Harrier Circus cyaneus

The species was recorded, mainly singly, from January to April and from August to December at many localities mainly in the foothill country. One was at Cherry Cobb Sands on 19th May (BSP). Some birds 'summered' at suitable breeding localities but definite proof of any such was lacking except for a pair and young, of which the male was shot, on a moor in the centre of the county.

Montague's Harrier Circus pygargus

There were only two records of this rare harrier; a ringtail on Blacktoft Sands from 20th to 23rd May (AG.FG.et al.) and a ringtail flying south at Spurn on 6th June.

Osprev Pandion haliaetus

One at Scar House and Angram Reservoirs in Upper Nidderdale on 9th April (per JH). One fished in the River Ure near Ripon on 15th April (DTMcA.CS.SW), one was at a large pond near York from 13th to 16th May (BP.GS) and one was seen at Fairburn Ings on 1st, 3rd and 4th May (CW.JCA.BB.JCL.et al). One over the R. Wharfe at Grass Woods on 10th May (SB).

One was at Worsborough Res. on 3rd September (AGB). One commuted between Harewood Lake and Eccup Res. from 4th to 9th September and was seen by many people (KEG.VAL.PD.et al.). One flew over Knaresborough Ringing Station after circling nearby Hay-a-Park G.P. on 15th October (TK.PS).

Hobby Falco subutteo

More records than ever before were reported this year; V.C.61: one at Hornsea Mere on 27th May (RGH.AG), one on 1st June (WFC), one on 10th August and two on 28th to 29th August (RGH). One at Bempton on 26th September (SCM). At Spurn, singles on 26th, 28th and 31st May and 2nd June. One on Skipwith Common on 11th July (DTM). V.C.63: singles at Blacktoft Sands on 2nd June and 1st September (AG).

V.C.64: singles at Fairburn Ings on 21st April, 18th August, 5th, 14th and 20th September. The September bird attended the Swallow roost in the evenings (CW.et al.). One at Swillington Ings on 28th July (JW). One at Healaugh Pond on 31st July (DB.TC.MR). One at Hay-a-Park G.P. from 22nd to 24th August which also attended a Swallow roost and was seen to take five swallows (three in ½ hour) (JRM.RE.JLCG.et al.) One at Staveley Lagoon on 13th August (RE.JLCG). One at Headingley, Leeds on 21st May (EPJM).

Peregrine Falco peregrinus

V.C.61: an immature chased House Martins at Flamborough Head on 1st September (HOB.LS). An adult flew over Hull University on 28th November (SML).

V.C.63: an adult at Whiteholme Res. near Halifax on 17th September (PAL).

V.C.64: an immature at Settle on 6th and 11th January (BS). Singles at Gouthwaite Res. on 2nd and 16th March, 5th October, 9th and 30th November (DJB.PJC.PAL.DS). One at Barden on 14th April (PMW), one near Harrogate on 7th and 10th May (WW), one in the Washburn Valley on 25th July (PME), one near Fairburn Ings on 29th September (JG.DS), one at Swillington Ings on 13th October and one at Swinsty Res. on 20th October (FAW), one chasing gulls at Stocks Res. on 17th November and one chasing ducks and Herons on 14th December (MVB).

V.C.65: a pair bred at one locality.

Merlin Falco columbarius

Very few successful breeding pairs were located although several birds were seen on suitable high ground during the summer. Four pairs bred in V.C.63 but only two are known to have been successful, rearing five and two young. Two successful pairs in V.C.64 (Wharefedale and Nidderdale).

Birds were recorded usually singly outside the breeding season, at many areas throughout the county, mainly in V.C.s 63 and 64 and principally during September to year end. Spurn had passage birds singly on eight dates in September, October and November.

Kestrel Falco tinnunculus

The species continues to do well and reports were numerous and widespread with successful breeding at many places. A pair bred on an electric pylon at Knostrop.

Some evidence of passage inland during September but it is difficult to separate the local population from moving birds.

Red Grouse lagopus lagopus

600 brace shot on Rombalds Moor was down on 1973 (JWM). 84 brace were shot on Keighley Moor on 12th August, again fewer than in 1973 (DH).

On 7th November, a Red Grouse landed beside a tractor which was ploughing in fog at Goldsborough (AS). A nearby farmer reported two birds on his land in the autumn of 1972 and it is possible that these records refer to birds reared in captivity.

Black Grouse Lyrurus tetrix

This species is much commoner in north-west Yorkshire than previously supposed and favours young conifer plantations which seem to be primarily responsible for the increase. Very high numbers were recorded in Upper Wharfedale with one count of 150 males lekking in March and 51 in one small area on 15th November, and in Upper Wensleydale where 50 were seen in one flock (DTM). Eight were on Malham Moor on 12th May (WG.GWP). A few birds were seen on Barden Moor, near Foxup (7 males, 3 females on 23rd April), Roundhill Res., Great Whernside, Grimwith Res., Tan Hill, near Semerwater, and Selset Res. in Upper Teesdale (11 on 20th November) (GEA.MVB.IHF.et al.).

Red-legged Partridge Alectoris rufa

Appears to have had a successful season with many breeding records, mainly from the Plain of York and in the south-east. Coveys of 34 near Blacktoft on 24th August, 16 on Thorne Moor on 2nd September, and up to 25 near Swinefleet and Adlingfleet and 33 near Fockerby all in September. 13 were at Staveley on 5th August, the largest covey in Nidderdale. 10 at Swillington Ings on 5th October.

One was near Midhope in April (west of Sheffield), a pair near Bretton in May and June and two near Ingbirchworth in May and August.

Recorded at Spurn in most months, mainly in September and October.

Partridge Perdix perdix

Although the Leeds area reported a decrease in numbers, the season was generally a good one with large coveys reported from many areas in the autumn. 35 at Wath Ings on 28th September and 47 on 6th October (JH), 33 at Nostell Priory on 1st January, and 30 at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 13th November. Ten coveys totalling 100 birds were in the area of Swinefleet Common on 20th October. Many other coveys of up to 20-25 birds were reported.

Quail Coturnix coturnix

One calling near Farnley Park on 30th May (DAR) and one calling at Burton Fleming, near Bridlington, on 16th July (GB).

Water Rail Rallus aquaticus

Widespread reports during the autumn and winter months mainly from one to three birds. Numbers at Fairburn Ings reached double figures frequently in the winter. 22 were at Blacktoft Sands on 24th January and c.a. 20 during November/December; at least two pairs nested (AG). Breeding was suspected but not proved on Thorne Moor where at least two pairs were present and the species was at Swillington Ings in June. Five were at Potteric Carr on 20th January and the species probably bred there.

Corncrake Crex crex

One calling on Ripon Golf Course on 12th July (DTMcA.CS). One calling in Upper Wharfedale on 29th May (SB). A pair attempted to breed near Barnoldswick (KB).

Coot Fulica atra

The usual pattern of late summer build-ups at most suitable waters where assemblies of up to 200 were commonplace through to the year end. Some maxima were 1,076 at Fairburn Ings on 30th July, 280 at Malham Tarn on 16th August increasing to 720 by 11th October

and 670 remaining on 27th December (MVB). Swillington Ings attracted 317 on 30th August and 326 on 8th September as its maxima. 411 were at Mickletown Ings on 20th October, 460 on 17th November and 402 on 15th December. This water produced 64 young (RLB). 567 at Wintersett Res. on 5th January and 548 on 25th December (PS).

Oystercatcher Haematopus ostralegus

Breeding occurred again at the lowland gravel pits and river shingle with single pairs near Pool, Masham G.P. and Staveley Lagoon — the first breeding record in Lower Nidderdale, and four pairs by the River Ure, near Ripon. Similar waters had pairs during the summer but breeding not proved.

The usual passage in spring and autumn took place with small numbers of birds at many areas. A few birds lingered inland as late as November and some were back at breeding sites or en-route by February.

Spurn had large numbers on the Humber mud with maxima of 1,490 on 20th January, 1,500 on 16th February, 1,540 on 3rd March, 370 on 14th April, 141 on 11th May, 67 on 29th June, 80 on 29th July, 106 on 13th August, 450 on 10th September, 1,065 on 24th October, 1,000 on 11th November and 1,100 on 29th December. Birds passed south offshore during July to September, the maxima being 270 on 26th July and 308 on 10th August. Cornelian Bay, near Scarborough, again attracted large numbers with from 200-300 present during January and from October to year end (IJP).

Lapwing Vanellus vanellus

On Sutton Moor, near Keighley, 53 pairs nested with a 45% success rate (92 pairs in 1973 with a 39% success rate) (DH). Winter concentrations and post-breeding flocks were as in most years with some noteable maxima: 1,500 on the Lower Derwent Floods in mid-February and 5,000-6,000 there on 29th December, 1,000 at Ulleskelf Mires on 18th January, 1,050 at Denton on 10th February when there were 1,000 at Scalby, near Scarborough, and 1,000 at Wintersett Res. on 17th February. 1,500 in fields by Skipton Road, Harrogate, in July and August, 1,000 at Masham G.P. and at Gouthwaite Res. in August. 4,000 at Knotford Nook G.P. on 30th November, 1,000 at Almholme on 1st December, 1,500 at Blacktoft Sands on 7th December, 1,000 at Swillington Ings on 22nd December and at Brandsby on 25th, 1,200 at Chelker Res. on 29th December, 2,000 at Birkin on 30th December, 1,000 at Wath Ings and 900 at Ulleskelf Mires on 31st December.

Elsewhere flocks of up to 800 birds were numerous during the same periods, mainly at the year end.

One near Malham Tarn on 10th September had white primaries and primary coverts (MVB).

Ringed Plover Charadrius hiaticula

Passage inland occurred during March to June and August to October at many waters throughout the county but mainly along the eastern edge of the Pennines. August and September were the peak months amd maxima were 10 at Masham G.P. on 17th August, 25 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on same date, up to 18 at Redmires Res. on several August dates and 28 at Whiteholme Res. on 18th October (PAL). Numbers elsewhere were usually below five birds. A few occurred in July and November.

Two pairs bred at Grimwith Res. and young were seen on 13th and 20th July. Up to four birds were at Staveley Lagoon from March to August with much display but breeding not proved. A pair bred at Pallett Hill G.P. and had four eggs on 26th May. I received no details of the East Riding inland breeding pairs.

Little Ringed Plover Charadrius dubius

Breeding records received were:

V.C.61: three pairs at three sites.

V.C.62: none reported.

V.C.63: 13 pairs proved at 10 sites and single pairs at four other known breeding sites.

V.C.64: 10 pairs at seven sites.

V.C.65: not reported. These figures are not comprehensive.

First bird of spring was at Wath Ings on 31st March (RW) with one at Farnham G.P. on 2nd April (RE) and Gale Common on 5th April. Main autumn passage was in July/August/early September with maxima of 18 at Wath Ings from 23rd to 26th July, eight at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 6th, 14 on 10th and 15 on 11th. A few birds lingered into late September and early October and one at Hay-a-Park G.P. on 20th October was last (RE).

Kentish Plover Charadrius alexandrinus

Addition to 1973 Report: One at Scaling Dam from 21st to 24th May (DGB.MissAC).

Grey Plover Pluvialis squatarola

One at Gouthwaite Res. on 16th May was the only spring record inland. More than usual occurred inland during the autumn with one at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 11th August, one on 14th and two on 23rd. Singles on Thorne Moor on 21st August and 21st September. One at Worsborough Res. on 17th September and two on 25th, one at Wintersett Res. on 17th September, one at Leighton Res. on 15th, singles at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 22nd and 28th, two on plough with Lapwings near Knaresborough on 7th October and one at Haya-Park G.P. on 20th October. Three at Fairburn Ings on 12th September and singles on 13th, 21st, 22nd and 3rd October.

Maxima on the Humber mud at Spurn were 30 in January, 42 in February, 38 in March, 34 in October, 14 in November and 28 in December.

Golden Plover Pluvialis apricaria

Flocks were larger than in 1973 and in the early months the maxima were 1,500 at Birkin on 19th January and 1,000 on 12th February, 2,000 at Swillington from 13th to 20th January (PAL), 600 in the Lower Derwent area on 6th January and 350 at Skipton, near York, in January and February.

In the autumn, 190 flew over Shipton on 19th August (RH), 100 at Swillington Ings on 1st September built up to 350 on 15th October, 610 on 10th November, 750 on 23rd November and 1,500 from 22nd to 28th December (JW), 1,000 at Settle Sewage Works on 16th November (ADW) and 1,000 were in the Lower Derwent Valley on 17th November (GS). 340 flew west over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 1st December (JRM.RE). 350 were at Chelker Res. on 21st December (FAW). Flocks of up to 300-400 occurred at many other places during the same periods and some flocks lingered until April when birds showed characters of the northern race. Such were 500 near Ingbirchworth on 20th (NL) and small assemblies elsewhere.

M. V. Bell carried out a census on some fells of upper Wharfedale in May and June 1974 and produced the following figures:

	Other pairs		
	Pairs found	estimated	Total
Old Cote Moor Top, Moss Top, Cosh Inside	26	11	37
Fountains Fell and Darnbrook Fell	12	10	22
Cray Moss, Yockenthwaite Moor to Fleet Moss	23	12	39
	61	35	94

Thus, the population on the moors in Upper Wharfedale was estimated at about 120-130 pairs.

26 pairs were holding territory on Wessenden Head and Wessenden Moors, south-west of Huddersfield in mid-June (PB.JED).

Dotterel Eudromius morinellas

A female on ploughed land at Mappleton on 5th May (WFC), a party of eight on Rombalds Moor on 8th May (JA), three on Danby Beacon on 16th May (GWF), a pair on Houndkirk Moor on 25th to 26th May (MS.AC) and one at Bempton on 31st August (SCM).

Correction to 1974 Report: 12 on a moor in the north-west should read north-east.

Turnstone Arenaria interpres

Cornelian Bay, south of Scarborough attracted many more than in 1973 with 146 on 10th March, 226 on 1st April, 213 on 12th April, 134 on 24th April, 52 on 1st August, 160 on 3rd August, ca. 90 during October and November, 152 on 17th December and 102 on 30th December (IJP). Spurn also had high numbers with 150 on several dates in April, 250 on 3rd May, 181 on 28th July, 291 on 29th August, 530 on 18th September and monthly maxima of 279 in October, 112 in November and 72 in December.

Co-inciding with these high figures on the coast were more inland records than usual. Single birds at Fairburn Ings on 24th July and 1st September. Two at Settle on 9th September. One at Harthill Res. on 6th May, the only spring record. Recorded from 10th July to 22nd September at Blackmoorfoot Res., Redmires Res., Wintersett Res., Thorne Moor, Wath Ings, Ingbirchworth Res. and Blacktoft Sands, from one to four birds mainly involved but five at Redmires Res. on 1st September, six at Wath Ings on 30th August and six at Blacktoft on 23rd July.

Long-billed Dowitcher Limnodromus scolopaceus

A bird in full summer plumage at Hornsea Mere on 24th July was watched by R.G. Hawley and J. E. S. Walker. Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee. Reproduced on the following page are details and drawings made from the observers original field notes and sketches.

Snipe Gallinago gallinago

Autumn assemblies were generally smaller than the last two years with 220 at Wath Ings on 22nd November (JH), and 150 at Knostrop in November the only gatherings in excess of 80 which were at Gouthwaite Res. in September. Lack of exposed mud at the latter meant fewer birds. In the early part of the year 100 were at Marley S.F. in February (WG.GWP) and 70 at Gouthwaite Res. in March. 150 were in small parties in the Lower Derwent Valley on 7th May (GS).

Elsewhere the only reported concentrations were below 50 birds.

Jack Snipe Lymnocryptes minima

Occurred singly at 12 localities in the early months, the last being at Wintersett Res. on 27th April. The first of autumn was on 28th September at Spurn and the next at Almholme on 29th. Recorded at 20 localities from early October to year end, one to two birds mainly involved but seven at Hangthwaite on 20th October (RJR) and 14 at Wath Ings on same date with 21 there on 10th and 24th November (RW.MT.JH). Four at Farnham G.P. on 17th November (RE). Seven at Hornsea Mere on 27th October and up to six regularly in November with nine on 12th and 14 on 13th (RGH). One to seven were on Broomfleet Island from 10th to 28th November and up to six in December (ACh). Spurn had up to three birds during late October.

One was on Cronkley Fell in Upper Teesdale on 1st November (IHF).

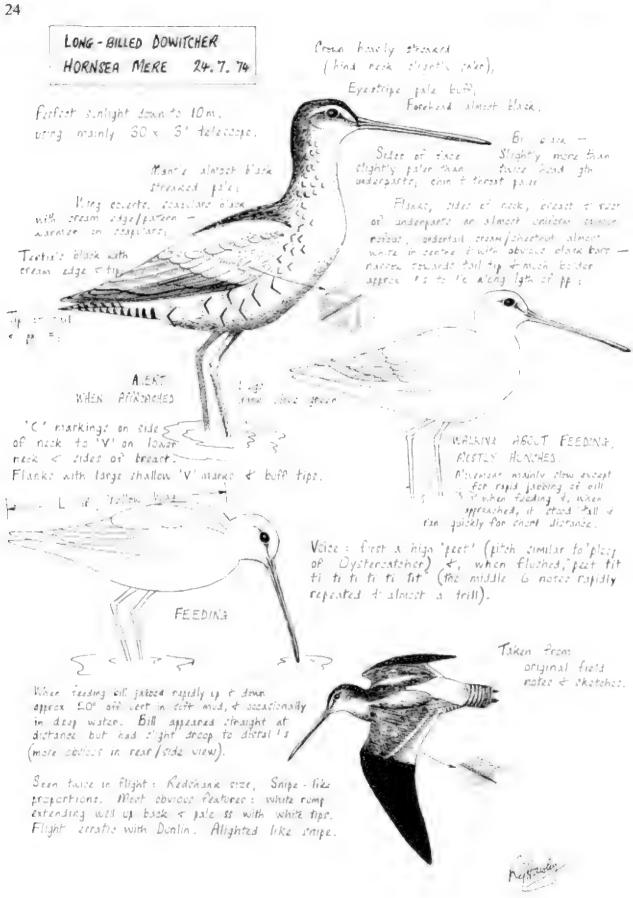


Figure 2. Long-billed Dowitcher Limnodromus scalopaceus Hornsea Mere, 24th July 1974. Drawings made from the observer's rough field notes and sketches which were submitted in support of the record. Drawn by R. G. Hawley.

Upland Sandpiper Bartramia longicauda

Addition to 1973 Report: One at Bolton on Swale G.P. on 6th August (G. D. Moore). A new species for the county. Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Curlew Numenius arguata

At Spurn spring passage birds numbered 38 on 19th May, 74 on 25th and 200 on 8th and 9th June, falling thereafter to single and low double figures, 500 on 24th July and 300 on 19th August were disturbed from the Humber mud by low flying aircraft. Some emigration was noted during April when birds flew north-east out to sea with 118 on 21st as daily maximum.

900 were flushed by a helicopter on Malham Moor on 10th September (MVB).

76 passage birds were at Farnham G.P. on 5th March, ca. 75 were on the moors near Midhope Res. on 16th March and 100 on 17th, the first birds having arrived in the area on 21st February, several other areas having birds during the next few days. 13th June was an unusual date for 120 seen flying near Gargrave (MES), and 12 flew west at Fairburn Ings on 29th.

Birds wintered at Gouthwaite Res. with 51 in January and 30 in February. At the year end 28 were present in November but singles figures in December (AFGW.PJC). 80 were by the River Ure at Leyburn on 25th February (GEA). The autumn flock at Rathmell Bottoms, near Settle consisted of 2,000 birds on 12th August and 8th September (BS).

Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus

Spring passage at Spurn was light with one to three daily from 14th April, up to four daily in May with 25 on 11th and 16 on 18th, seven on 1st June and the last on 3rd June. Single birds occurred inland at a few places on ten dates in May.

Autumn passage inland occurred from 30th June to 15th September at a few places, one to three birds being mainly involved but six at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 20th August (FJR) and seven at Wintersett Res. on 14th September (PS.JSR).

Coastal records in autumn were numerous from 29th June to October with many passing south at Spurn, 95 on 27th July and 65 on 9th August as daily maxima. 44 came in off the sea on 25th July and 40 on 16th August. 52 flew south at Filey on 27th July (RHA).

Black-tailed Godwit Limosa limosa

At Fairburn Ings in the early morning of 20th April, 57 Black-tailed Godwits came in from the east. After two hours, 17 left and the remainder stayed until 1630 hours when a further 35 left and the last five stayed until 1710 hours (CW.PAL.FAW.et al.).

Wath Ings had four on the same day (JH.RW.et al.).

One was on floodwater at Settle on 22nd March (BS), one at Potteric Carr from 12th to 19th April, and one at Wath Ings on 29th April. One at Tophill Low Res. on 12th May (SML), two at Staveley Lagoon on 13th May and one next day (RE), three over the sea at Hornsea on 26th (WFC) and one at Spurn on 1st June.

Blacktoft Sands had two from 16th April to 31st May, three from 1st to 5th June, from 15th June to 2nd July and from 1st to 21st August, two on 30th August and two on 13th September (AG).

One at Faxfleet on 5th July and on 18th and 21st August (GAS.BWW). One at Hornsea from 17th to 23rd August, 12 on 18th and one on 2nd September (RGH). Three at Bempton on 29th August (SCM). Spurn had one on 7th August, three on 17th August and two on 3rd September.

Bar-tailed Godwit Limosa lapponica

At Spurn in April, birds were present almost daily with 110 on 20th (see inland records below) and 53 on 24th. A few occurred to year end with 19 on 12th July and 23 on 24th as isolated peaks. Cornelian Bay attracted fewer than in 1973 with 10 on 15th October as maximum.

Inland occurrences were numerous and at Fairburn Ings on 20th April (see last species), 63 were present at 0650 hours, at 0657 hours another 62 came in followed by a single. 117 left when disturbed by a passing train, the remaining nine staying until mid-day. 10 were at Wath Ings, seven at Blackmoorfoot Res. and four at Swillington Ings on the same date with one at Knotford Nook G.P. (DMP) and two at Potteric Carr on 22nd, three at the latter on 24th and one on 28th. Two were at Chelker Res. on 17th May (FAW), three on Thorne Moor on 19th and one at Deerhill Res. on 13th June (MLO.PB).

In the autumn, Eccup Res. had one on 25th July and another on 16th August. Four at Wintersett Res. on 1st August (DP), one at Blackmoorfoot on 11th August (JED) and one at Settle from 11th to 17th September (BS). Passage inland was noted at Blacktoft Sands from 7th July to 27th August with 56 birds involved, 26 on 3rd August being daily maximum (AG).

Green Sandpiper Tringa ochropus

Recorded, usually singly, but with two at a few places, at numerous localities from January to 5th May and from end of June to year end, mainly from July to September. Thorne Moors had exceptional numbers; 21 on 30th June (SLJ), 25 on 11th August (WHP), and up to 17 in late August (CW.ML). Eight by the River Ure near Ripon on 1st July (DTMcA.CS) and five at Healaugh Pond on 16th August were the maxima elsewhere.

Wood Sandpiper Tringa glareola

Singles at Fairburn Ings on 22nd April (CW), Potteric Carr on 12th and 15th May (RA). Broomhill Flash on 19th May (DJS) and Birkin on 22nd May were the only spring records.

Reported singly in the autumn, mid-July to mid-September, on twelve dates at eight localities in V.C.63. In V.C.64 Fairburn Ings had singles on one date in July, five in August and three in September. Singles were also at Birkin and Settle in August.

Apart from Spurn, where there were two records, one on 31st August and one on 13th September, V.C.61 had only two birds, one at Hornsea Mere from 9th to 12th August (RGH) and one at Bempton on 28th August (SCM).

Common Sandpiper Tringa hypoleucos

First of year was one on the beach at Spurn on 6th April with two at Birkin on 7th April and one at Ramsgill in Upper Nidderdale on 10th with one at Gouthwaite Res. on 11th. A few birds appeared during the next four days but the main arrival was between 20th and the month end. Maxima at Gouthwaite Res. were 30 at end of June and 24 during July. 14 were at Lindley on 16th June and 22 on 31st August and 14 at Redmires Res. on 24th July.

Bred commonly in the centre and western half of the county.

Birds deserted most areas by mid-September and some stayed to the month end with late records being one at Castle Howard on 5th October, one at Eccup Res. on 6th, two at Spurn on 14th and one at Farnham G.P. on 15th (RE).

One appeared at Lindley Res. on 15th November (PAL) and stayed to the year end (MVB. DMP.et al.).

Redshank Tringa totanus

Birds were seen in the winter at the following places: One at Newall Carr on 1st January, two at Swinsty Res. on 6th (GTF), one at Chelker Res. on 19th (FAW) and at Gouthwaite Res. where three were present during January and four during February. Floodwater at Long Preston attracted 24 on 13th January (MVB) and at Settle, remarkable numbers were recorded with 57 on 24th January and 80 on 13th February (BS.SR).

At the year end, 15 were at Settle on 1st November and 42 on 30th (BS). One was at Knotford Nook G.P. on 11th, one at Lindley Res. on 14th (PJC), and three at Leston on 30th. At Gouthwaite Res. six were present from 26th October to year end (AFGW.et al.). Fairburn Ings had a few birds during the same period.

Spring arrivals were from 6th March with birds on high ground in Upper Nidderdale by the 7th.

32 flew north-east at Wintersett Res. on 20th April.

Large numbers occurred on the coast at Spurn with maxima of 250 in January, 170 in February, 220 in March, 100-300 during April, 70-100 in early May dropping to low double figures and building up again in mid-July with 483 on 20th, 750 on 18th August, 615 on 5th September, 700 in October, 100 in November and 217 in December.

Cornelian Bay had large numbers with 250 on 10th March, 274 on 12th April, 205 on 3rd August, 247 on 31st October, 442 on 29th November and 458 on 30th December (IJP).

Spotted Redshank Tringa erythropus

Occurred at 25 waters during April and May and from mid-July to October, principally during September. One to three birds were involved, mainly singles, but with 13 at Worsborough Res. on 31st August and 19 flying N.N.E. at Wath Ings on 2nd September. Up to five were at Hornsea Mere during the autumn period. Six flew south at Spurn on 3rd August. Eight on floodwater at Settle on 11th September and 12 on 17th (BS). 23 at Wath Ings on 8th September.

A few occurred outside these months with one at Sunk Island on 13th January (JFW), one at Potteric Carr on 9th March and one on Thorne Moor on 15th June.

Greenshank Tringa nebularia

Spring records were few and involved only one to two birds from 20th April to 20th May. Autumn passage started in mid-June and continued to mid-October with birds occurring at many places. Maxima were eight at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 19th August, eight Altofts Ings on 21st August, nine at Wath Ings on 31st August, 11 at Fairburn Ings on 28th, 13 on 29th August, ten on 1st September and eight on 2nd and 4th.

One was at Redmires Res. on 3rd March and at the year end single birds were at Faxfleet on 26th October, Blacktoft Sands and Kilnsea Lagoon on 17th November. Wintersett Res. on 30th December and at Wath Ings throughout December.

Knot Calidris canutus

Coastal maxima were at Spurn with 1,520 on 20th January, 2,000 on 3rd February and 3,030 on 3rd March. Single and low double figures in April with 225 on 25th (220 left to the north-east) and smaller numbers in May. Build-up from 46 on 22nd July to 2000 in mid-October, 800 on 2nd November and 1,200 on 8th December. Cornelian Bay had 310 on 20th January, 130 on 27th November and 180 on 29th December (IJP).

Inland records were one at Fly Flatts Res. on 17th May and at five other waters from 28th July to 29th October. 12 flew west along the shore at Eccup Res. on 15th August (see 1973 Report) (PS).

Purple Sanpiper Calidris maritima

72 at Kettleness on 7th April and 28 on 5th May (PAL.IS). Filey Brigg had 73 on 12th January (FJT), 70 on 3rd March (JW), 120 on 23rd November (RHA) and 110 on 8th December. 53 were at Scalby Mills on 22nd December (IJP). Cornelian Bay attracted large numbers and is now the most favoured locality in Yorkshire: 111 on 10th October, 142 on 24th, 159 on 12th April, 133 on 24th, 60 on 24th October, 82 on 13th November, 120 on 26th, 210 on 29th, 141 on 17th December and 212 on 30th (IJP).

One occurred inland at Marley S.F. on 29th August (IH.AM).

Little Stint Calidris minuta

Spring records were few with singles at Spurn on 4th and 19th May, Wath Ings on 31st May and 1st June, Chelker Res. on 25th May and Gouthwaite Res. from 26th to 28th May. Two at Fairburn Ings on 24th May and one on 29th and two at Hornsea Mere on 29th.

In the autumn the species occurred in good numbers. One was at Hornsea Mere on 30th June (RGH), one on the shore at Kettleness on 13th July (PAL.IS). One was at Hornsea Mere on 30th June (RGH), and two on 6th August (DEM).

The main passage was from mid-August to 24th September but mainly from about 27th August to 8th September. Birds appeared at about 18 waters with maxima of 10 at

Cherry Cobb Sands on 19th August (HOB), six at Fairburn Ings on 30th and 14 on 31st, seven from 1st to 4th September and six on 5th. Elsewhere from one to four birds were involved.

Temminck's Stint Calidris temminckii

One at Hornsea Mere on 21st May (RGH), one at Blacktoft Sands on 29th and 30th May (AG.SG.AS), one at Gouthwaite Res. on 29th June (PJC.AFGW) and one on Buckton Pond from 31st August to 6th September (SCM).

Dunlin Calidris alpina

Monthly maxima at Spurn were 900 on 9th January, 2,340 on 3rd February, 1,506 on 3rd March, 2,520 on 15th April, then fewer to early June, and from late June to 1,300 on 18th September, 2,500 on 16th October, 1,210 on 2nd November and 1,450 on 8th December. Southward passage off-shore was recorded on several dates from July to September.

Numbers at Cornelian Bay peaked at 600 on 1st December and 690 on 30th (IJP).

21 wintered at Fairburn Ings and Gouthwaite Res. had up to 17 during November. The Lower Derwent Floods attracted large numbers in the winter months with 350 on 29th January, 600 on 31st March, and 200 during December (GS.RH). 100 were present on 4th May.

66 at Wath Ings on 10th March, 75 at Fly Flatts on 22nd April, 32 at Redmires Res. on 23rd July, 60 at Potteric Carr on 22nd September and 50 at Wath Ings on 19th October were the inland passage maxima.

M. V. Bell surveyed the fells of Upper Wharfedale in May and June and produced the following figures:

	Other pairs		
	Pairs found	estimated	Total
Old Cote Moor Top, Moss Top, Cosh Inside	11	5	16
Fountains Fell and Darnbrook Fell	3	2	5
Gray Moss, Yockenthwaite Moor to Fleet Moss	10	5	15
	24	12	36

At least seven pairs bred on Wessenden Moor and five pairs west of Sheffield.

Curlew Sandpiper Calidris testacea

Very few recorded with birds at only two inland localities. One at Spurn on 20th July, three on 4th August, one on 7th and singles on 1st, 15th and 19th September. Singles at Filey Brigg on 26th July (RL), Tophill Low Res. on 7th August (DEM), Broomfleet Island on 15th September (DBC) and at Fairburn Ings on 6th and 15th August (PAL.et al.).

Sanderling Calidris alba

Occurred inland at 11 waters from 20th April to 3rd June with single birds mainly involved but up to three at Fly Flatts Res. on 3rd July and four at Gouthwaite Res. on 10th May. In autumn, occurred at four waters but more birds involved. Blackmoorfoot Res. had from one to three one many dates from 20th July to 24th August and nine individuals on five dates in late July were considered to be different birds as they were seen to fly off on each occasion and were not present on continuous dates. Birds were also at Redmires Res., Blacktoft Sands and Eccup Res.

Of the favoured coastal localities, only Spurn figures reached me and maxima were 25 on 20th January, 49 on 2nd February, 21 on 31st March, 32 on 28th May and 17 on 1st June, much lower than in 1973.

Ruff Philomachus pugnax

Occurred at many inland localities from April to early June and from late June to November mainly in May and September and most numerously during the latter period. A marked influx occurred at the end of August and early September and there were 17 at Blacktoft Sands on 29th August, 20 on Broomfleet Island, 17 at Fairburn Ings, 14 at Masham G.P., 12 at Wath ings and smaller numbers at a few other places on 31st, 16 at Staveley Lagoon on 1st September when there were 37 at Blacktoft Sands. 30 were at the latter on 4th October, 25 on 8th October and 24 on Broomfleet Island on same date.

60 were on stubble at Stone Creek on 6th October and 65 on 13th (JED). 12 were on the Lower Derwent Floods on 3rd November (JHL).

Avocet Recurvirostra avosetta

A remarkable year for this species with records at five localities:

One was at Brough Haven on 9th and 10th March (DBC.DIMW), and one was at Blacktoft Sands on 12th March (AG). Two were at Broomhill Flash on 28th April (DJS.JH.PBW.et al.).

Eight flew west at Spurn on 4th May and seven (probably the same party) flew into Fairburn Ings on same date and were seen at Birkin later the same day (CW.GG.et al.).

Grey Phalarope Phalaropus fulicarius

Singles at Filey Brigg on 30th March (WAC) and at Scalby Mills on 9th and 10th April (RC.RHA.JW). One in full summer plumage at Hornsea Mere on 27th May (WFC.RHA.et al.). One at Broomhill Flash on 8th September (DJS).

Red-necked Phalarope Phalaropus lobatus

One at Wintersett Res. on 28th September was the first record for the county since 1967 (PS.JSA.FM.et al.).

Great Skua Stercorarius skua

One at Spurn and seven flying north at Flamborough on 6th April (PAL.et al.), and one at Bridlington on 9th April (RL) were the only spring records.

Occurred regularly in small numbers from 13th July to 29th October at the usual seawatch points. The maxima were 102 at Spurn on 24th September when 22 also passed south at Filey. 12 off Spurn on 21st October, 24 on 22nd and 10 on 28th. 39 flew south at Flamborough on 21st October. Numbers on other dates did not exceed 10 on any one day.

Pomarine Skua Stercorarius pomarinus

One was off Flamborough on 27th June (SCM).

At Spurn, two flew north on 10th August and one on 14th, a juvenile from 30th August to 4th September, eleven, including a party of eight, flew south on 13th September and five on 24th, one on 25th September and one on 22nd October. Nine flew south off Scarborough on 30th August and one 25th September.

Seven at Flamborough on 24th August (GRB), four at Bempton on 31st (SCM), and one to two on eight other dates from 31st August to 27th October off Flamborough, Filey, Bempton and Hornsea.

Arctic Skua Stercorarius parasiticus

Very few spring records; one flying north at Flamborough on 6th April (PAL), two at Bempton on 13th and singles on 15th and 20th (SCM), one at Spurn on 27th and two on 11th and one on 31st May, one on 7th June, three on 8th and one on 15th and one at Bempton on 9th June. Two at Filey on 25th June and two at Flamborough on 29th (SCM).

The first of autumn was at Spurn on 6th July when one also flew south at Filey. Recorded off the coast in small numbers throughout July, numbers increasing during August and September. Maxima were 180 at Spurn on 10th August and again on 27th and 30th with 200 on 2nd September and again on 3rd. 442 passed on 24th September. 99 were off

Flamborough on 27th August (GRB), 240 flew north at Hornsea on 2nd September (DEM) and 150 north off Flamborough on 3rd September (SCM). 33 flew south at Filey on 3rd October (CRC).

The largest autumn moves occur during strong winds from the north-west to north-east when birds mainly fly south, but on some days they move north or in both directions. The mixed direction movements may only occur when large feeding concentrations are off the Yorkshire coast and are forced inshore by the strong winds.

The only inland record was one flying west over Fairburn Ings on 22nd September (TB.RM.CW).

Long-tailed Skua Stercorarius longicaudus

An adult on the seashore at Spurn on 27th July and again on 28th and single adults flew south on 14th, 18th and 27th August. A juvenile was at Sewerby on 22nd September (RGH).

Great Black-backed Gull Larus marinus

Large numbers at Spurn with maxima of 820 in August, 810 in September and 850 in October. Southward passage offshore occurred from August to October with 617 on 24th August, 661 on 7th September, 339 on 21st September and 799 on 27th October as maxima.

The roost at Blackmoorfoot Res. attracted 600 on 1st January, decreasing to 200 by mid-February. 300 were present from early November to year end with 410 on 29th December (PB.JED).

110 roosting at Swillington Ings in January (JW). 80 at the Gouthwaite Res. roost on 5th January (AFGW). 505 on 10th November was the maximum at the Fairburn roost. 180 at Barden Res. roost on 3rd November and 350 on 22nd December (MVB).

Occurred widely elsewhere inland during the autumn and winter months in smaller numbers mainly at the waters of the eastern Pennines.

An aberrant bird occurred at Scarborough from October to December. See note on p. 3.

Lesser Black-backed Gull Larus fuscus

135 at a daytime roost at Patrington Haven on 14th August was an incredible number for the East Riding (DEM).

Large numbers occurred at many places in the western half of the county with roost assemblies of up to 500 birds at several reservoirs. 750 were on Malham Tarn on 16th August (MVB). 1,150 at Masham G.P. on 10th November of which 95% were adults, the same ratio applying to 860 on 8th December (AFGW).

A pair had a nest on Grassington Moor on 13th July (MVB).

A few showing characters of the Scandinavian race L.f. fuscus occurred inland and many of the birds which passed at Spurn in early September (83 in first eight days), were considered to be of this race.

Herring Gull Larus argentatus

The Blackmoorfoot roost held 2,000 on 1st January (same as in 1973) numbers decreasing to 400 by mid-March (JED). Other waters had smaller numbers to roost with maximum of 1,750 at Eccup Res. on 1st January falling to 300 by end of February.

Common Gull Larus canus

The roost at Eccup Res. held between 1,000 and 3,000 during January to March and 3,500 were there on 21st August and up to 26th September when 6,000 were present with 2,000 to 4,000 to year end (PS).

Blackmoorfoot Res. had 600 from January to March with 1,200 on 2nd and 28th March and 800 from late October to year end with 1,040 on 24th December (PB.JED). A roost at Malham Tarn held 1,050 on 1st April, 1,100 on 16th August, 2,600 on 10th September and 600 on 11th October and at Stocks Res. there were 2,000 on 6th January, 3,150 on 9th February and 2,000 on 14th December (MVB).

1,300 flew east out to sea at Mowthorpe at dusk on 23rd February and 2,500 did the same at Scarborough on 13th April (IJP).

Glaucous Gull Larus hyperboreus

Coastal records were numerous and occurred from January to May with one in June, and from October to year end. Most sightings were in the Scarborough area during April with three birds present on 9th. There were also several records during December. Only six of the ca.55 seen were in adult plumage, the majority being first-year birds.

Inland, occurred at seven localities on 15 dates from January to April and during November and December with single birds at Fairburn Ings, Masham G.P., Knotford Nook G.P., Blackmoorfoot Res., Brownhill Flash, Broomhead Res. and Langsett Res. and two adults at Broomhead Res. on 23rd November.

Iceland Gull Larus glaucoides

A first-year bird at Spurn on 23rd November. One at Beverley S.F. on 29th March (DEM), an adult at North Ferriby tip on 30th March (DIMW), a first-year at Filey Brigg on 26th to 27th October (RHA.et al.), and a first-year at Flamborough on 1st December (CD.RH). A second-year bird was at Scarborough from 16th December to year end (CRC.et al.).

Blackmoorfoot Res. again attracted its share of the inland records with single birds on 1st January (1st W.). 21st February (1st W.), 23rd February (3rd W.), 14th December (Ad.) and 27th December (Ad.). The same bird/s was no doubt involved in some of these sightings (DB.JED.MLD.JCG.DS.et al.).

One at Loxley Tip, Sheffield, on 5th December (MGO). Two (1st W., 2nd W.) at Fairburn Ings on 3rd March (CW.et al.).

Mediterranean Gull Larus melanocephalus

One at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough, on 24th March (DIF). One sub-adult at Scalby Mills, Scarborough, on 9th April and two sub-adults from 11th to 21st April (RHA.CRC.et al.). An adult was at Tunstall on 31st March (DEM). An adult in summer plumage flew south at Spurn on 24th July.

Little Gull Larus minutus

Coastal records were again numerous. Spring records were few with one at Flamborough on 24th March (DIMW), one at Spurn on 18th May, 12 at Tophill Low Res. on 5th May and one on 12th (JHL.SML). One was at Weltonwater on 15th May (DIMW). At Hornsea Mere where the species was present on many dates from April to October the maxima were up to 20 in August with 28 on 27th and 23 on 31st, 50 on 6th September, 49 on 18th and 22 on 1st October (RGH.RV). Smaller numbers occurred from July to October at several other coastal localities.

Recorded at nine inland waters from 10th February to 30th June and from 21st August to 22nd October usually singly and mainly during May.

Ten were at Swillington Ings on 15th April (JW) and recorded at Fairburn Ings from 15th April to 19th May with 22 individuals involved and ten flew east on 4th May (CW.et al.).

Black-headed Gull Larus ridibundus

Winter roosts held large numbers with maxima of 10,000 at Fairburn Ings (CW.et al.), 6,000 at Eccup Res. in mid-February and 10,000 in early December (PS).

5.550 flew south over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 30th November on their way to the Eccup roost (JRM.RE.PTT). 6,000 were at the Blackmoorfoot roost in January and December. 9,500 were at Malham Tarn on 16th August and 5,500 on 10th September.

25 pairs bred at Wheldrake Ings in the Lower Derwent Valley but the results were not known (HOB).

Sabine's Guil Larus sabini

More records this year than usual.

An adult at Flamborough on 10th February (DIMW). At Spurn, occurred offshore with a flock of Kittiwakes in August: single adults on 14th, 22nd, and 23rd, two on 24th and 25th and one on 26th. Single adults flew south on 1st, 2nd and 3rd September and a first-year bird

flew north on 29th September. An adult flew north on 22nd and 23rd October. Two adults flew north off Scarborough on 3rd October and a first-year bird was at the harbour sewage outlet on 12th October (RHA). Three first-year birds were off Bempton on 18th September (SCM).

An adult was at Fairburn Ings during the late afternoon on 14th October and seen by C. Winn; the second inland record for the county, the other being at Ossett S.F. from 19th to 29th September 1950.

Ross's Gull Rhodostethia rosea

A first-winter bird was at Bridlington on 27th January; the third county record (M. and Mrs. Densley). Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Kittiwake Rissa tridactyla

Passage offshore at Spurn was erratic during the autumn with many on some days and very few on others. The peak day was 23rd August when 5,000 were counted. In October, movement was more concentrated and 5,700 flew north on 13th, 2,250 flew south on 28th and 3,000 flew south on 29th.

A new breeding colony on Flamborough South Cliff at 'Old Fall' of 40 nests, an extension round the headland of ca. 1 km. (Used nests first noted in autumn 1973) (HOB). 1,712 nests were occupied on Scarborough Castle Hill (IJP).

Inland records came from Fairburn Ings where there were three on 13th March, singles on 16th to 17th and 26th March, 12th, 16th and 21st April and three flying east on 8th May (CW.et al.). Two adults were at Knotford Nook G.P. on 17th April, a sub-adult at Gouthwaite Res. on 5th January and an adult on 6th with three on 16th April (PJC.AFGW). A sub-adult at Chelker Res. on 7th June (PMW) and two at Farnham G.P. on 21st October (RE.GTF). Singles at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 15th March, 24th to 25th April and 22nd October (DB.MLD), two at Wintersett Res. on 15th April (JSA), singles at Tinsley S.F. on 25th May (CMcK), Langsett Res. on 7th December (JH) and at Blacktoft Sands where 28 flew inland on 21st May and singles occurred on 18th February, 24th March and 25th June (AG).

Black Tern Chlidonias niger

An obvious movement through the county on 16th May when birds were seen at several places in good numbers; at Hornsea Mere where up to 13 had been seen since 10th May, 23 appeared on 16th, and 22 were at Fairburn Ings, six at Elland G.P., six at Potteric Carr, five at Chelker Res., ten at Castle Howard Lake, four at Staveley Lagoon, nine at Knotford Nook G.P., and one at Eccup Res.

Birds soon cleared the area after this date and none were recorded after the 19th. The first had arrived at Fairburn Ings on 20th April but 10th May was the date of the first influx. Singles were at Fly Flatts Res. on 15th June, at Hornsea Mere on 17th (RGH), Redmires Res. on 22nd and Wintersett on 23rd.

In the autumn, recorded from several places, usually in small numbers from 8th August to late September with the main movement during the first half of September. One was at Hornsea Mere from 8th to 22nd October. Maxima were 25 at Hornsea Mere on 1st September and 22 on 11th, 11 at Fairburn Ings on 31st August and 3rd September, 25 at Blacktoft Sand on 13th September and 46 at Spurn on 7th. Spurn recorded southerly passage on several dates in August and September.

White-winged Black Tern Chlidonias leucopterus

A juvenile at Hornsea Mere from 1st to 13th September (RGH.DIMW.et al.).

Addition to 1961 Report: A juvenile at Hornsea Mere on 19th August (GRB). Both accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Caspian Tern Hydroprogne caspia

One flew south at Spurn on 3rd August (RFP). Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Common/Arctic Tern Sterna hirundo/paradisaea

Nine on 11th April were the first, at Spurn. In the autumn Spurn had birds daily from 29th June to 29th September, 29 on 1st October and one on 13th. Maxima were 1,500 on 23rd August, 1,000 to 2,000 during the first six days of September. In addition were birds passing south offshore in the evenings with 1,300 on 23rd August, 2,000 on 4th September and 1,600 on 2nd and 3rd September. 130 flew south at Filey on 24th August and 120 were on the Brigg (RHA).

Occurred widely inland during April to September, most numerously during June and August. 140 sightings in V.C.63 produced only two definite Arctics. Birds were at Wintersett Res. on 60 days from 15th April to 25th September with maxima of 16 on 17th June and 18 on 29th. 30 flew over Blackmoorfoot Res. in six parties on 14th April and 34 on 26th August. Elsewhere, occurred in small numbers at several waters during the same periods. 18 flew east in a compact flock at Settle on 5th May (BS).

Apart from the two in V.C.63, Arctic Terns were specified at Gouthwaite Res. on 7th June (PJC), and on seven days at Fairburn Ings from 12th to 28th April and 13th July to 25th August, 14 individuals being involved. One at Knotford Nook G.P. on 8th September (MVB.ESS).

Coastal records of Arctic Terns were 30 on Scalby rocks on 27th July, 12 on Filey Brigg on 10th August and 14 on 31st August (RHA) and 34 in Cornelian Bay on 3rd August (IJP).

Roseate Tern Sterna dougallii

An adult at Filey on 10th August (RHA) and two adults there on 24th August (CRC) were the only records.

Little Tern Sterna albifrons

At Spurn, one on 27th April, one to two on odd dates in May with four on 28th. One to two regularly in June with five on 2nd and four on 11th. One to three regularly in first half of July with 13 on 13th and single and low double figures in second half with 20 on 29th. One to three on several August dates to 30th with eight on 3rd.

Elsewhere, the species was scarce: three at Bridlington on 30th April (DEM), two at Kilnsea Lagoons on 3rd May and two at Hornsea Mere on 15th June (RGH). Singles at Flamborough on 18th August and Bempton on 18th September (GRB.SCM). One at Scarborough on 5th August and two on 11th (WAC.RHA).

The only inland records were one at Elland G.P. from 9th to 15th September with two on 10th (MH), two at Worsborough Res. on 24th June and one one at Chelker Res. on 18th/19th June (PMW).

Sandwich Tern Sterna sandvicencis

Inland records were one at Mickleton Ings on 9th April, two at Fairburn Ings on 20th April, one at Wintersett Res. on 23rd June, two at Broomhead Res. on 7th July, one at Knostrop on 29th July, one at Redmires Res. on 15th August, three at Wath Ings on 1st September and one at Swillington Ings on 15th September.

Two flew inland at Blacktoft Sands on 19th August.

Occurred commonly on the coast, mainly during the autumn from July to September. Maxima at Spurn were 1,333 passing south on 7th August, 1,800 on 23rd August, 4,000 on 2nd September and 2,300 on 4th September.

Razorbill Alca torda

3,767 birds were counted on visible parts of the cliffs from Speeton (Red Cliff Hole) to Flamborough Fog Station in June (SCM). This stretch is virtually the limit of the species range on these cliffs.

The measurements of an adult found dead at Spurn in February were well within the range of the Northern form *Alca t. torda*. Wing: 222 mm: Culmen 37: depth at gonys 22. The skull with ramphotheca, and one wing are in the J. R. Mather collection.

Little Auk Alle alle

A large influx in October during a period of northerly gales which persisted from 21st to 29th. The big day was the 29th when 318 were recorded flying north at Spurn during an all-day sea watch with the peak movement between 1100 and 1200 hours and 179 at Hornsea in two and a half hours (RGH.CM.et al.). 118 passed north at Spurn next day when 66 were recorded at Scarborough in two and a half hours — one party flew close under the Marine Drive wall and could be heard calling (RHA) and 16 flew north at Filey Brigg (DEM.SML). Singles were seen at Spurn on 1st and 13th October with four on 23rd, one on 26th and seven on 31st. In addition, one was over the Humber on 29th and one found injured on the road on 31st. Four were in Scarborough North Bay on 26th October (FJT) and one was at Long Nab on 11th November.

One flew into Wath Ings on 29th October, landed and flew off to the north-east seven minutes later (PS).

One flew north at Blacktoft Sands on 31st October and landed on the River Trent. It drifted out into the Humber with the tide (AG).

One found dying at Kirkby Malham on 1st November and one found at Skipton on 6th November (PMW).

Addition to 1973 Report: One seen at Bempton on 2nd May (SCM).

Guillemot Uria aalge

13,801 birds were counted on the visible cliff faces from Speeton (Red Cliff Hole) to to Flamborough Fog Station in June. This stretch represents the limit of the breeding sites (SCM).

Puffin Fratercula arctica

2,564 birds counted on the visible cliff faces from Speeton (Red Cliff Hole) to Flamborough Fog Station in June (SCM).

190 flew north off Flamborough in one hour on 6th April (PAL).

There were three inland records: one picked up in the Roewoods/Firvale area of Sheffield on 14th October after strong winds. It was fed on fish for a few days and released at Bempton (RS). A dead bird was found on Haworth Moor in October (JCL). One was found on the Leeds ring road at Adel on 15th January and taken to the R.S.P.C.A. (GG).

Stock Dove Columba oenas

The largest flock ever recorded in the county was at Staveley Lagoon on 27th October when 200 were counted (RE).

40 at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 7th November (RE), 30 in Denton Park in January and again during November and December, 38 at Blacktoft Sands on 31st March (AG), 30 at Wath Ings on 5th October and 25 on Whitley Common, Ingbirchworth on 27th December were average flocks.

Wood Pigeon Columba palumbus

3,000 flew over Scarborough Harbour in a long line stretching from the Castle Hill to Cornelian Bay on 19th December (CRC). ca. 2,000 were at Staxton on 7th December (FJT). A roost at Flaxby, near Knaresborough, held 10,000 birds on 8th December (RE). 4,000 flew over Staveley in five minutes on 14th December (RE). 1,550 were in tree tops at Healaugh on 17th November (SML). Many other areas had flocks of up to 500 mainly during November and December.

Turtle Dove Streptopelia turtur

The first was at Melton Wood on 22nd April with the general arrival being from 4th May. Northward passage over Blacktoft Sands was noted from 13th May to July with maximum of 31 on 26th May and southward movement during August and September with maxima of 20 on 15th August and 21st September (AG). Similar autumn passage was seen at Wath Ings with 16 on 18th August as maximum. 50 were on wires at Harthill Res. on

8th June (HH). Southward passage at Spurn involved 78 birds on 28th May and 114 on 2nd June.

Late records were two at Swillington Ings and one on Thorne Moor on 29th September and singles at Knaresborough Ringing Station and Spurn on 30th September with one at Spurn on 13th October and one at Wath Ings on 31st October (RW).

Collared Dove Streptopelia decaocto

Continues to in-fill new territories in established areas as the populations grown. Large flocks were 200 on Broomfleet Island on 22nd October (ACh), 200 at Copgrove on 27th October (RE), 120 at Swinefleet Granary on 12th December, 86 at Horbury, near Wakefield, on 23rd January, 80 at Cottingley regularly during the winter months, 70 at Holywell Marsh on 23rd December and 50 at Wickersley from September to year end were other large assemblies. Still increasing in the Keighley-Sutton area with 23 on 5th October (DH).

Cuckoo Cuculus canorus

The first and very early was at Hampsthwaite on 5th April (PJC). Singles at Gouthwaite Res. on 12th, at Sawley on 14th and at Scarborough on 17th, were also early, the general arrival being between 20th and 23rd April when birds were recorded at eleven places.

Birds lingered into September with one at Settle on 5th, Swinsty Res. on 10th, Spurn on 13th, Blacktoft Sands on 19th and Thorne Moor on 21st.

13 males were on Thorne Moor on 3rd June and the species was considered to be in 'more than usual numbers' by several observers in the Barnsley/Thorne area.

Barn Owl Tyto alba

Several successful breeding records received and many sightings indicates a good population.

Long-eared Owl Asio otus

V.C.61: Singles at Bempton on 8th April and Bridlington on 25th (SCM). Bred on Skipwith Common where young heard in May (A.&JD.JHL). One at Hornsea on 11th and 12th October (RGH). One at Spurn on 6th April and on 12th with one present from 15th to 17th. One came in over the sea on 8th October, one at the point on 12th and two on 13th. One flew north offshore on 10th November and singles were at the point on 11th and 22nd November.

V.C.62: One at Maidensworth in late February early March (PH).

V.C.63: Five pairs bred at four sites and pairs present at two more localities. 21 were flushed from a roost on Hatfield Moor on 5th January.

V.C.64: Two heard and one seen at Rufforth in June (TC.MR). One at Staveley Lagoon on several dates in August (RE.GTF.JRM), one at Gouthwaite Res. on 26th October (PJC. DGL), one at Fairburn Ings on 27th October (CW). Present at Timble, near Otley but breeding not proved. One pair bred near Silsden (AS.WG). One near Stocks Res. in January (PAL).

Addition to 1973 Report: A pair reared two young near Skelton in V.C.62 (DJB).

Short-eared Owl Asio flammeus

Widely reported from the high ground during the breeding season but an indication of fewer successful pairs, and also from several east riding lowland areas during January to May and July to year end. One near Brough on 23rd June was possibly breeding in the area (DIMW). Elsewhere occurred singly at many localities mainly during October to December, possibly reflecting immigration which was evident at Spurn during October and early November with a few seen coming in over the sea.

Nightjar Caprimulgus europaeus

V.C.61: Nested on Skipwith Common. V.C.62: One near Scarborough on 21st June and two on 1st August (WAC.IJP).

V.C.63: Bred on Thorne Moor and several males were present on 3rd June (SLJ.WHP). Two to three males in Wharnecliffe Wood during the summer. One male at Agden on 29th April and a female at Strines on 21st July (AF.DG.DH). One at Hatfield Moor on 18th May and probably up to seven on 7th June. V.C.64: A pair bred in Upper Wharfedale and were on eggs on 15th August. The adults and young were last seen on 11th September (PMW). Three pairs were on Sawley High Moor and two pairs reared three young (MRS. et al.), V.C.65: One on Colsterdale Moor on 14th September (PY).

Correction to 1973 Report: V.C.62 should read; one at Birchall, not Birdsall.

Swift Apus apus

The first bird, in what was otherwise a late year, was over Wessenden Head Moor on 24th April (RCP). One at Hornsea Mere on 30th was the next and a few occurred from 3rd May but the general arrival was not until the 9th when several areas recorded their first birds and the next few days saw the species well in. After three at Fairburn Ings on 5th May, 200 were present on the 9th. 600 were at Esholt S.F. on 16th June (LM) and 1,000 at Fairburn Ings on 25th/26th June (GC.et al.).

Birds lingered into mid-September with a few to the month end and singles on Thorne Moor on 5th and 9th October. Seen singly at Hornsea Mere on 18th, 19th, 20th and 22nd October (RGH). One at Ackworth on 4th November.

Alpine Swift Apus melba

One at Bempton on 13th May (SD and mrs S. B. Gall). Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Kingfisher Atthis alcedo

Very widely reported from V.C.'s 62, 63 and 64 with many breeding records and a high autumn population. Thinly distributed in V.C.61 and very few records from V.C.65.

Bee-eater Merops apiaster

One over Bempton Cliff top on 17th May (SCM). Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Hoopoe Upupo epops

One at Spenborough S.F. on 29th April (ANH) and one at Ravenscar on 1st May (JW). One spent all day on a lawn at Leyburn in May (exact date not known). (per DTM). One was at Carr Hall, Whitby on 4th May (H. M. Norton).

Green Woodpecker Picus viridis

Thinly distributed, mainly in the north and in the western half of the county, breeding records being scarce and only proved at four places in V.C.63 and five in V.C.64.

Seven were in Langdale on 27th April including three together (IJP).

Great Spotted Woodpecker Dendrocopus major

One caught at Spurn on 30th August stayed to 5th September and belonged to the northern race D.m.major. One caught there on 17th October was the British race D.m.anglicus.

Reported from all parts of the county, mainly in the western half.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker Dendrocopus minor

Breeding records were scarce and the only ones received were of three pairs near Sheffield. Other pairs doubtless bred as birds were present during the summer at several localities and records of single birds were fairly numerous in some localities, particularly from York, westwards to the Dales.

Wryneck Jynx torquilla

A good year for the species with five inland records and several on the coast.

At Spurn, occurred from 28th April to 5th May, one to four being involved. In the autumn, daily from 30th August to 15th September. 12 arrived on 30th August with 15 on 31st and 11 on 1st September, numbers falling thereafter. One was seen on 2nd October. Two were at Bempton on 30th August and singles at Hornsea and Filey Brigg on 31st and singles at Filey, Bempton and Flamborough on 1st, 10th, 12th and 14th September. One hit a window at Burniston, Scarborough on 1st September and later recovered (RSP).

Inland records were one on Thorne Moor from 15th to 21st June (SLJ), one found dead on the road at Woodthorpe, York on 1st September (PD), one at Sykehouse, near Goole, on 7th (WHP), one at Swillington Ings on 8th (JW) and one at Wath from 29th September to 10th October (JH.PBW.et al.). One at Hooton Pagnell on 1st September (AD.MD).

Short-toed Lark Calandrella cinerea

One was caught at Spurn on 9th May (BRS.et al.).

Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Addition to 1970 Report: One caught at Spurn on 13th June stayed in the area until the 18th. The third record for the peninsula (JC.BRS.AWW). Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee. Identified as belonging to the greyish eastern form.

Wood Lark Lullula arborea

One at Spurn on 5th May flew north (JC).

Skylark Alauda arvensis

No exceptionally large flocks or movements were reported from inland localities, the maxima being 315 flying south-east at Healaugh on 14th September, 400 flying west-south-west over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 28th September and 105 next day. 200 flew south-west over Wath Ings on 6th October and 200 over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 18th October. ca. 140 were in Clubley's fields at Spurn during January/February and December.

Southward passage was noted at Spurn during September, October and November with 1,500 on 17th October, and 1,161 on 3rd November as maxima. Up to 500 birds passed on several other dates.

Shorelark Eremophila alpestris

In the early months, birds occurred at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough, with six on 14th March (JW); at Bempton, where there were 26 on 12th February, 15 on 8th April, 27 on 20th April, seven on 5th May and the last two on 9th May (SCM); at Spurn with six on 2nd March, 15 on 3rd and five on 9th with two on 9th April, one on 14th and 16th and one on 26th and 27th May.

First of autumn were seven on Filey cliff top on 5th October and thereafter to month end, reducing to two by 12th November (RHA.et al.). Five at Kilnsea Lagoons on 2nd November and 13 on 9th (DEM.SML), nine at Flamborough on 12th November and one at Hornsea Mere on 28th (RGH). Spurn had two from 17th to 21st October, one on 25th and one to six from 26th October to 3rd November with others in December when there were seven on 11th and 11 on 30th. Three flew south and one north on 10th November.

Correction to 1973 Report: 25 at Bempton on 3rd and 26th July should read February.

Swallow Hirundo rustica

The first was at Ampleforth on 4th April (TC.MR) with one at Hornsea on 5th (RGH). The main arrival was not until mid-month. Birds lingered late in the autumn and there were November records from 18 localities, the last being at Scarborough on the 27th (IJP) and at Scalby Mills on 30th (DEM). Juveniles were still being fed on 25th October at Cannon Hall near Barnsley (ANH).

The roost at Fairburn Ings was estimated to hold 100,000 birds at its peak on 13th and 14th September (CW.et al.).

The usual passage occurred at Spurn with peak movements in May and September in which month ca. 20,000 were counted moving south with 9,000 on 9th as maxima in one day.

House Martin Delichon urbica

A few early records but the species was not generally distributed until well into May. One at Dowley Gap S.F. on 11th April (PJB) and two at Knotford Nook G.P. on same date (GTF. DMP) were the first with a few during the next few days but not generally seen until the third week and then not in strength.

The species always lingers until well into October and several localities had birds to the month end, the last being singles at Flamborough on 2nd November, Hornsea Mere on 3rd, Selby on 7th and Knaresborough on 12th (JRM).

Young still being fed in the nest at Apperley Bridge on 14th October (DLR).

Sand Martin Riparia riparia

The first was one at Blacktoft Sands on 25th March, three at Fairburn Ings on 27th March and the next at Knotford Nook G.P. on 1st April. Several places recorded the first birds between 5th and 10th April.

Like the Swallow, several Sand Martins lingered late and October records came from Knaresborough Ringing Station with five on 5th, two on 6th and singles on 7th and 12th, Wath Ings and Wintersett Res. on 6th, three at Scarborough on 8th, Gouthwaite Res. on 13th and Altofts Ings on 19th.

The Fairburn Ings roost was estimated to hold 20,000 on 5th September.

Golden Oriole Oriolus oriolus

One called four times in Bishop Wood, near Selby on 30th May (GWP.WG).

Raven corvus corax

Records were few and the north-west was not adequately reported.

Many sightings of single birds in Upper Teesdale throughout the year but no evidence of breeding (IHF). Present at Pen-y-Ghent and a pair in Upper Airedale but no breeding details were obtained. Two over Middlesmoor in Upper Nidderdale on 11th July (GTF).

One flew north over Fairburn Ings on 4th May (CW). This is one of the very few records away from the high ground.

Carrion/Hooded Crow Corvus corone/cornix

The usual autumn/winter roost at Ogden Res. Plantation of up to 100 birds. Up to 50 were attracted to pig manure on Rombalds Moor. A roost near Ripon built up from 72 in October to 100 by 15th December (DTMcA.CS). Passage at Spurn during March involved 30 on 7th and 50 on 11th as maxima.

A pair nested on an electricity pylon near Almholme in April (RJR). An all white bird was seen near Newfield Bridge on the River Aire on 23rd June; the eye was dark and the bill greyish-brown (MES). A white crow with black eye, bill and legs was at Airton on 30th November (MVB).

The Hooded Crow was recorded singly at 12 inland localities from January to April and November and December with two at Fairburn Ings in February and March and three at Settle on 3rd February. Recorded from Flamborough to Spurn during January to April, with up to seven almost daily in early April at Spurn and singles there on 12th May, 8th June and 6th July. Up to six at Spurn during late October and four at Flamborough on 16th November. A marked easterly passage was noted at Bempton during April when singles, often with Carrions, were seen to fly out on several dates (SCM).

Jackdaw Corvus monedula

Some large roost flights were recorded, the maxima being 4,000 flying from Lower Wharfedale into Washburndale between 0800 and 0900 hours on 7th December (LM), 2,000 over Knotford Nook G.P. at dusk on 23rd November (MVB) and 1,000 regularly with Rooks over Scholes, Leeds, flying to the large roost near Tadcaster.

Magpie Pica pica

24 were on Burley Moor on 19th March (FAW). Up to 20 birds on Muston Carrs on 9th and 10th November (JT). 16 at Ben Rhydding S.F. on 31st December (MVB) and numerous other flocks of up to 10 birds reported.

Up to 40 roosted in Gledhow Valley Wood, near Leeds, during November and December.

Jay Garrulus glandarius

One at the point at Spurn on 18th May and one flying north-west on 1st June. Only the eighth and ninth records for the peninsula.

Marsh Tit Parus palustris

Indications are that the population is low whilst the next species is increasing. At Knaresborough Ringing Station for example the trapping figures for the past few years have shown Willow Tit to outnumber Marsh Tit by about three to one, and at Wintersett Res., no Marsh Tits but 38 Willow Tits were caught in 1974. The species would perhaps repay special study.

Willow Tit Parus montanus

See comments under Marsh Tit above.

Long-tailed Tit Aegithalos caudatus

Many parties of up to 20 birds were reported during the autumn and winter months and the species is obviously doing well, no doubt due to the mild winters in recent years.

Maxima were 30 at Tadcaster in mid-July, 40 at Gouthwaite Res. on 24th August, 33 on Thorne Moor on 29th September and 60 at Lindley Res. on 7th November.

Nuthatch Sitta europaea

A pair with three newly fledged young near Birdsall on 23rd June was the first actual proof of breeding in V.C.61 for 20 years (BSP).

Fairly widespread but thinly distributed in the north and west of the county.

Wren Troglodytes troglodytes

The population is very high no doubt due, as in the case of Long-tailed Tit, to a succession of mild winters. Up to 40 were present at Spurn on several dates between 9th and 17th October.

Dipper Cinclus cinclus

Birds present at all three known summer sites in V.C.61 with proof of breeding at one (HOB,CV.DEM).

Present in most suitable habitats in the north and west of the county.

Bearded Tit Panurus biarmicus

Two at Hornsea Mere on 2nd and 13th April were the only spring records but regular in autumn from 9th October to mid-November and a few to year end. 18 on 15th October, 12 on 25th and 11 on 6th November were maxima (RGH).

Regular counts along the frontage of Broomfleet Island showed birds present on most days from 2nd January to 19th February when watching ended. 18 on 2nd January, 14 on 6th, 13 on 24th and 11 on 31st were maxima (ACh). A male on 1st June, a female on 30th June, five young birds on 6th July and two parties on 11th August (DBC). Remarkable numbers present from mid-September to mid-December, with 17 on 14th September, 150 on 18th, 200 on 30th, 100 on 11th and 12th October, 200 from 13th to 31st, 180 on 3rd November, 100 on 4th and 5th November and 40 on 1st December were maxima.

Blacktoft Sands had 200 in January, 120 in February, an influx in mid-March to 200 and 150 paired birds in April. 60 pairs were papped in May and more were present. The first broods fledged from the third week in May and second broods at the end of June. A few third broods appeared in early August and the last recently fledged young was seen on 16th

September. 700 birds were present in early September with much irruptive behaviour from the 11th, increasing in intensity during October. 300 had departed by mid-November and 250 were present at the year end (AG).

A party of seven were in a small typha bed at a Knaresborough gravel pit from 8th to 17th October. All were caught and ringed and one was retrapped at Adlingfleet, near Goole on 31st October. Four were at Fairburn Ings on 9th November (RFD) and two were at Mickletown Ings on 10th (GT). One was by the small pond on Filey cliff top on 17th November (IC). Seven were at Spurn on 19th October and two on 3rd November.

Up to 25 birds were present during January to March and in November and December with a few pairs in the summer at a site up-river from Blacktoft Sands.

Mistle Thrush Turdus viscivorus

Up to 50 near Adel Dam, Leeds, during the second half of September was the largest concentration. 24 at Harden during July (MES) and 25 near Ripon on 24th August were the next largest gatherings, smaller numbers being recorded at several places during the autumn.

Fieldfare Turdus pilaris

Birds started to flock and move out by end of March with 2,000 at Castle Bolton in Wensleydale on 18th, 1,000 on Royd Moor on 23rd and several large assemblies during early April; a roost on Sawley High Moor held 850 on 8th with 1,800 on 23rd, 1,000 at Rylstone on 6th and 1,000 in Knaresborough Forest (west of Harrogate) on 9th. Several areas reported passing flocks during the second half of April and coastal movement was evident at Bempton where a large movement took place on 30th with 2,400 moving north between 0730 and 0930 hours with a further 1,800 down in the area (SCM), 1,000 were in the Bempton to Bridlington area on 2nd May and the last flock of 20 passed Bempton on 9th with one to two on several dates to 26th, 150 were at Ravenscar on 6th May. Smaller numbers moved through Spurn during the same period. A few lingered to the end of May in several inland localities and some into June with one at Spurn on 2nd, one at Hornsea Mere on 3rd (WFC) and one at Masham G.P. on 30th (PJC).

A pair was present at a moorland locality in the west of V.C.63 during June and July.

Spurn recorded birds in August with one on 20th, two on 21st, 26 on 29th, three on 30th and 25 on 31st. Smaller numbers were present during September increasing at the monthend and the first real influx on 10th October when 700 were present.

Three were at Wintersett Res. on 25th August and three at Blacktoft Sands on 31st when one was at Filey and two at Cayton Bay. Some were inland during the second half of September but the main arrival was from 5th October when 650 moved west over Knaresborough Ringing Station and other areas reported their first influx. Later moves included 4,900 flying west over Thorne Moor on 19th October and 1,000 on 20th, and 1,520 west over Wath Ings on 26th as maxima. As is usually the case, birds passed straight through and by December flocks were small but 1,000 were on Otley Chevin during the month.

Song Thrush Turdus philomelos

One found dead at Otley in early April showed characters of the continental race T.p.philomelos (RC.JRM).

Redwing Turdus iliacus

The roost at Adel Dam, Leeds, held 500 on 3rd April. After a few flocks during mid-April, birds moved out quickly and by the 26th very few areas had any left. 12 at Adel Dam on 28th April, two at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 29th, two on Thorne Moor on 1st May, one at Ben Rhydding on 4th and odd ones at Heslington on 5th, singles at Spurn on 5th and 6th, six at Hornsea on 7th and the last at Bempton on 14th.

First of autumn were four at Worsborough Res. on 20th September, two at Bempton and 20 at Hornsea Mere on 26th, 20 at Cookridge, Leeds, on 27th and a few small flocks from 28th. The first influx was on 2nd October at Spurn when 1,000 were present and

inland at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 3rd when 130 passed with 650 moving west on 5th. Birds continued to arrive during the month and 2,000 were at Spurn on 10th, 1,000 near Ripon on 17th and 600 at Fairburn Ings on 26th.

Birds were scattered after mid-November and flocks were generally scarce but 400 at Wentworth on 2nd December. 500 were at a roost on Thorne Moor on 3rd November.

Ring Ouzel Turdus torquatus

First of the year were males on Sutton Moor and at Burbage on 21st March with two at Digley on 22nd. The next was a male in Bransdale on 23rd with three next day, at Grimesgill and Barden Moor (three males) on 29th, two males on Greenhow Hill, near Pateley Bridge, on 30th and one at Gorple Res. on same date. Spurn had one on 25th March and one to four on several April dates with up to three from 4th to 12th May and one on 25th. Birds passed along the coast further north from Hornsea to Flamborough on several dates from 9th April to 19th May with 13 at Bempton on 30th April, otherwise one to three.

Most moorland areas were clear of birds by the third week in September, late ones being two at Angram Res. in Nidderdale on 28th and two at Digley on 1st October.

Birds passed along the coast into October and a few in November; eight at Spurn on 2nd October then one to three daily to 9th with one on 15th, and singles on 2nd, 5th and 9th November. One was at Kilnsea on 12th October.

Inland passage birds away from high ground were one at Eccup Res. on 7th April, one at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 10th and 11th September and one at Fairburn Ings on 5th October.

Blackbird Turdus merula

The usual coastal influx during October and November with counts at Spurn of 140 on 6th October, 800 on 16th, 500 on 18th, 600 on 4th November, 400 on 5th and 150 on 22nd.

Some inland localities had an increase during October with up to 100 on several days at Fairburn Ings and an influx at Ben Rhydding S.F. on 6th when 30 were there with other turdidae. A roost in Otley Plantation built-up during late October to 3,000 birds.

Wheatear Oenanthe oenanthe

The first were two at Fell Beck in Upper Nidderdale on 8th March (EH) with the next at Redmires Res. on 18th, Spurn on 19th and Wath Ings on 20th. Birds were slow to come in and it was around 27th to 28th April before the species was generally distributed. Several birds passed through lowland areas during May and some of these may have belonged to the Greenland race.

Autumn passage at Spurn during August peaked at 100 birds on 30th with 65 on 31st; 13 to 64 were present during the first half of September, then fewer to 8th October. Singles were present on several dates from 12th to 26th October.

Late birds inland were singles at Birkin, Blacktoft Sands, and Emley Moor on 5th, near Huddersfield on 10th and three at Wath Ings on 20th. One was on Filey Brigg on 29th November (HTJ).

Desert Wheatear Oenanthe deserti

A male on Fraisthorpe beach from 29th November to 2nd December was seen by many observers during its stay (CG.AG.RGH.NR.TW.DIMW).

Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Stonechat Saxicola torquata

The species was very numerous this year both at inland localities and on the coast.

V.C.61: Recorded at six localities from January to April and at 18 places from 31st August to year end. One to three birds mainly involved but seven on Broomfleet Island on 26th October and up to 10 along the coast at Cowden from October to year end. Up to six at Bransholme S.F., Hull from 8th October to 8th December.

Spurn had one to three on several dates from 1st January to 25th March and one on 11th May. One on 11th September heralded a remarkable autumn with birds almost daily from

18th September to the end of November. Six on 27th September, 11 on 28th, 18 on 29th and 13 on 30th, 15 on 5th October, 19 on 8th, 11 on 14th and 12 on 19th, 10 on 2nd November with up to six regularly to the 18th. One to five birds on a few December dates.

V.C.62: The only spring records were from Jugger Howe, near Scarborough, where the species bred. In autumn, records came from seven other places from 21st September to year end, usually one to two birds but four at Jackson's Bay on 1st November.

V.C.63: One to three birds at 10 localities during January to 18th March. Recorded from 21 different places in the autumn with four at Wath Ings, Blacktoft Sands and Thorne Moor

as maxima. Breeding proved at four places.

V.C.64: Recorded at 11 places, January to early April and from 17 in the autumn from 25th September to year end, maxima being eight at Little Almscliffe, near Harrogate on 25th September and up to four at Norwood Edge on 2nd October, otherwise one to two birds involved. One at Thruscross Res. on 29th June and one at East Morton on 23rd July. There were no confirmed breeding records.

V.C.65: Only one record of a male at Tow Hill on 24th February but there would surely have been more.

The large numbers at Spurn in autumn were obviously part of a larger influx which brought the birds to inland localities. All breeding records should be noted.

Whinchat Saxicola rubertra

The first was at Harthill Res. on 7th April with the next at Almholme on 20th. The general arrival was not until first week of May and Spurn had only singles from 28th April until eight on 11th May and nine on 12th as spring maxima.

In autumn, passage at Spurn was quite heavy with 14 on 28th August, 25 on 29th, 90 on 30th and 55 on 31st. In September, there were 53 on 2nd and 55 on 15th thereafter to mid-October with the last bird from 19th to 21st October. The last inland birds were three at Fairburn Ings on 28th September, one at Tadcaster on 29th, singles at Knaresborough Ringing Station and Skipwith and two at Wath Ings on 6th October and a late bird at Melton Wood on 27th.

Passage through several inland areas was evident during August and September with 18 near Settle on 9th September as maximum.

Redstart Phoenicurus phoenicurus

First of spring were singles at Harrogate S.F. and Ben Rhydding on 12th April with singles at Grantley on 15th and at Broomhead Wood on 16th. A few places recorded birds on 20th but the general arrival was late.

Passage at Spurn during August to October involved 25 on 30th September and 11 on 31st, 19 on 8th October and 11 on 9th as maxima with the last few passing from 19th to 21st. The last inland birds were during the second half of September with one at Wheldale S.F. on 27th and a late record at Oakes, near Huddersfield, on 7th October (RW).

Black Redstart Phoenicurus ochruros

Passage at Spurn occurred from 25th March to 4th May with one on 15th and 16th June. Only small numbers were involved with up to six during mid-April as maxima and from 6th August to end of November but only occasionally except during second half of October when 20 on 16th, seven on 17th to 18th, 16 on 19th, 15 on 20th, nine on 21st, five on 22nd and one to three to the month end. Singles occurred on 2nd and 23rd to 24th November. One was at Bempton on 8th May and one on 27th October. Singles at Filey and Scalby on 6th and 8th April respectively.

Inland records came singly from Settle where a female occurred on 15th April (BS), Digley Res. on 11th August and from 10th to 29th September (NL.PB.JED.et al.), Midhope Res. on 20th August (CMcK) and Wath Ings from 22nd September to 6th October (RW.JH.et al.).

Nightingale Luscinia megarhynchos

Present again at the locality ca. 13 kms. north of Doncaster and breeding proved (JDP).

A male on Thorne Moor on 2nd May (AS.AG) and on 14th and 31st May (WHP) with two males in late May and a third in June with breeding probable (AG).

One found dead at Spurn on 8th May.

Bluethroat Luscinia svecica

The only coastal bird was at Flamborough on 6th October (HOB).

A male Whitespotted Bluethroat L.s.cyanecula occurred in a garden at Normanton on 25th May (PDKet al.). This is only the fourth county record of this form, the others having occurred in 1876, 1859 and 1966, all in April.

Grasshopper Warbler Locustella naevia

The first was on Thorne Moor on 19th April (ML) with the general arrival taking place from 27th April and during the first week of May.

The species is very much affected by subtle changes in habitat and may suddenly forsake areas in which it has been successful for several years. Young forestry is a good example and although a popular habitat when the trees are small, it becomes unsuitable with maturity. The species is thinly but generally distributed in suitable habitat over much of the county.

Reed Warbler Acrocephalus scirpaceus

Blacktoft Sands had a breeding population of ca. 200 pairs (AG). At least 14 pairs bred at Fairburn Ings (CW). 23 singing males were plotted at Mickletown Ings in June and 17 at Altofts Ings. 10 to 20 pairs present on Thorne Moor (ML.CW). The Hornsea Mere population is difficult to assess but appeared to be at full strength (RGH).

The species maintains a precarious foothold on Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough, in spite of human presence including water skiing.

A pair near Ripon in June was outside the species' normal range (MRS).

One at Fairburn Ings on 4th October (CW) and one at Blacktoft Sands on 17th were the last recorded (AG).

Marsh Warbler Acrocephalus palustris

One was caught at Spurn on 25th May (BRS.et al.).

Addition to 1970 Report: One in song at Spurn from 26th to 28th June.

Sedge Warbler Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

The earliest record was at Fairburn Ings on 14th April. Few places had birds before the month end and the general arrival was from about 5th May (see 1973).

The last was at Wintersett Res. on 1st October (PBW).

Icterine Warbler Hippolais icterina

One at Fockerby, near Goole on 30th August (FG). One at Filey on 1st September (RHA. et al.) and singles at Flamborough on 8th (IH), and on 14th (FS.AFGW). Spurn had one on 5th, 11th and 14th with two on 12th and 15th.

Blackcap Sylvia atricapilla

The first was at Grass Woods on 6th April with one at Spurn on 9th. One at Fairburn Ings on 11th, Wintersett Res. and Potteric Carr on 12th and at Harrogate S.F. and Knaresborough Ringing Station on 13th.

Several birds lingered late and a few overwintered with singles at Bramhope on 1st October, Ben Rhydding on 5th and a male at Adel Dam on 20th, where a female was seen on 15th December. One at Mowthorpe, near Scarborough, on 4th November, one at Hornsea Mere on 5th, a female at Wintersett Res. on 9th, and in Bretton Park on 10th. A male at Filey Brigg on 12th and at Flamborough on 16th. Single males near Huddersfield on 15th, Low Bradfield on 17th and in Beaumont Park. Huddersfield from 17th to 24th November

with a female on 3rd December. A female was at Selby on 8th December and one at Glass-houghton on 21st.

Several were at Spurn during November and December; one to three almost daily to 12th November, with one on 17th, two on 20th and one on 30th. In December, one on 6th, two on 8th and singles on 19th, 29th and 30th.

Barred Warbler Sylvia nisoria

The only records came from Spurn in the autumn: two on 29th and 30th August and one on 11th and 12th September. Retraps of ringed birds showed that they were present from 6th October to 3rd November with three from 8th to 10th October. One ringed on 10th October was retrapped on 3rd November and one ringed on 16th October was retrapped on 2nd November.

Garden Warbler Sylvia borin

The first, and well ahead of the main arrival were in the Porter Valley. Sheffield on 19th April (GB) and at Potteric Carr on 21st. One in Bretton Park on 27th April was the next with a few more occurring on 1st May and during the next few days.

Late birds were at Fairburn Ings on 16th September, Pontefract on 21st and Knaresborough Ringing Station on 26th.

Whitethroat Sylvia communis

The first birds were at Fairburn Ings and Potteric Carr on 21st April with the next at Harthill Res. on 25th and at Spurn (three) on 27th. A few more places recorded birds during the next few days but it was early May before the species was well distributed.

Still no real indication of recovery to pre-1968 status.

Birds lingered inland until third week September with one at Fairburn Ings on 19th, two at Wintersett Res. on 21st, one at Adel Dam on 22nd and one at Wath Ings on 23rd. Late birds were at Spurn on 8th to 10th October and Scalby Mills, Scarborough, on 14th October.

Lesser Whitethroat Sylvia curruca

The first was at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 20th April with the next at Scalby Mills on 22nd. Three places recorded birds on the 27th and two on 28th.

Inland areas recorded birds up to 20th to 22nd September with one at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 29th.

A few passed at Spurn up to mid-September with one on 20th and singles on 3rd October, 6th to 8th, 10th and 15th. One was at Flamborough on 22nd October (PAL).

Willow Warbler Phylloscopus trochilus

Single birds at Adel Dam, Lindley Res. and Handsworth on 4th April and Ben Rhydding, Wintersett Res. and Grass Woods on 6th were the first. Several places had birds on 10th with others coming in during the next few days. 13th to 15th April was the period of the first real influx but not generally distributed until 19th to 20th.

A few lingered to end of September but most areas were clear of birds by mid-month. One sang at Meanwood, Leeds on 30th September, one was at Fairburn Ings on 2nd October and sub-song was heard from one at Lindley Res. on 17th October (PJC).

Singles were at Spurn from 2nd to 4th October and on 10th.

Greenish Warbler Phylloscopus trochiloides

One at Kilnsea from 1st to 5th September (SCM.et al.).

Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Chiffchaff Phylloscopus collybita

One at Harrogate S.F. on 23rd February had probably overwintered (JH). One at Wintersett Res. on 22nd March (PS), one in the Porter Valley on 24th, three at Spurn on 25th, one at Fairburn Ings on 26th and one at Knotford Nook on 27th were the first, with a few other records by the month end.

Several birds stayed into October and Spurn had from one to three regularly during the month with singles on 5th and 17th November. One was at Fairburn Ings on 4th October, one at Swillington on 6th and singles at Nostell Priory and Thorne Moor on 20th.

Several occurred in November and December with single birds at Lindley Res. on 6th November (PJC), Blackmoorfoot Res. and Langsett Res. on 16th, Wath Ings on 17th (JH), Brandsby on 23rd November (PH), Castle Howard on 1st December (JHL.et al.), Esholt S.F. on 2nd (WG), Knaresborough Ringing Station on 8th (RE), Ben Rhydding on 7th and 8th and again on 21st (MVB), Selby on 23rd (PR), Skipton on 23rd and Cudworth on 24th.

Addition to 1973 Report: Up to five were in Locke Park, Redear from 31st October to 2nd November (DJB).

Wood Warbler Phylloscopus sybillatrix

The first were in Upper Nidderdale with one at Low Laithe on 15th April and one at Smelthouses on 19th (MW). Scotton Banks, near Knaresborough on 24th April (FS), Middleton Woods on 28th and Bolton Abbey on 29th were more normal arrival dates. One was singing at Swinsty Res. on 9th August (PJC).

The species is scarce in V.C.61 and the eastern parts of V.C.'s 63 and 64, and the only records in the former were singles at Hornsea Mere on 8th and 29th May (DEM.SMC), on Bempton Cliff top on 30th August (SCM) and at Spurn where singles occurred on 17th, 21st and 23rd August.

Yellow-Browed Warbler Phylloscopus inornatus

Two at Spurn from 2nd to 5th October, one remaining until 7th October. One found dead on Scarborough Castle Hill on 1st October had maggotts in the head area but the skin was preserved and is in the J.R. Mather collection (no. A.64.1).

Goldcrest Regulus regulus

Movement at Spurn occurred from March to May and from September to November. Maxima were 50 on 25th March, 60 on 26th March, 50 on 12th to 13th April, 105 on 28th September and 40 to 100 between 8th and 17th October.

20 were at Filey on 12th October (RHA). ca.66 were counted around Swinsty Res. on 2nd November (FAW).

Firecrest Regulus ignicapillus

Singles at Spurn on 12th to 13th May and on 3rd October, 23rd to 24th and 26th October and on 10th November. One at Ravenscar on 15th October (JW).

Inland, one was at Broomhead Res. on 26th October (DH.DG.et al.) and one in the Porter Valley, Sheffield, on 17th November (SF).

Spotted Flycatcher Muscicapa striata

The first was at Burley-in-Wharfedale on 8th May with one at Spurn on 9th but it was well into the second week before birds were well distributed.

Late birds inland were at Tadcaster on 26th September, Adel Dam, Potteric Carr and Digley on 28th and Knaresborough Ringing Station on 29th and Worsborough Res. on 4th October.

At Spurn late birds passed into October with two on 10th and singles on 11th and 13th.

Pied Flycatcher Ficedula hypoleuca

The first record was near Ripon on 17th April (DTMcA.CS), the next being at Smelthouses in Upper Nidderdale on 26th (MW) and in the Washburn Valley on 27th.

Coastal passage in spring was very light with singles on only five dates in May at Spurn and at Buckton on 12th to 13th May. In autumn, the passage was prolonged, from mid-August to mid-October with 250 on 30th August, 90 on 31st and 45 on 1st September. The last was one on 17th October.

Red-breasted Flycatcher Ficedula parva

Two at Spurn on 8th October, one of which, an adult, was still present next day.

Dunnock Prunella modularis

17 flew high to the south over Fairburn Ings on 14th September. Similar apparently restless behaviour is noted at Knaresborough Ringing Station each year during September and October.

A pair bred in juniper scrub at an altitude of 1,750 feet on Cronkley Fell, Upper Teesdale (IHF).

One with a pure white crown frequented a Burley-in-Wharfedale garden from October to year end (FCD).

Tawny Pipit Anthus campestris

One at Bempton on 18th and 19th May (SCM). Accepted by *British Birds* Rarities Committee.

Meadow Pipit Anthus pratensis

Spring passage inland in early April was evident as birds assembled at feeding areas prior to dispersing to high ground, having been held up by low temperatures and cold winds: 100 were at Knaresborough Ringing Station from 5th to 8th April, 300 were at Gouthwaite Res. from 6th to 12th and 60 were still flocked at Leighton Res. on 4th May.

Peak autumn passage at Spurn was during September with 5,915 passing south on 9th, 2,000 on 11th, 1,520 on 14th and 1,410 on 20th. Several inland areas noted similar movement as birds came off the high ground. 177 flew south-west over Swillington Ings on 15th September and 126 over Fairburn Ings on 17th (JW.CW). 140 were at Grimwith Res. on 18th August, 150 at Dacre in Upper Nidderdale on 23rd September and 350 in the area of Gouthwaite Res. on 28th September when 150 were at Potteric Carr. Heavy passage over Tadcaster and Healaugh on 14th September on a wide front and 105 were counted in 3½ hours at one place, indicating many birds being on the move (SML).

Tree Pipit Anthus trivialis

First of spring was at Wintersett Res. on 10th April with three singles at Ben Rhydding on 14th, one at Broomhill Res. on 16th, Adel Dam on 18th and at several places from 20th.

The last inland birds were at Knottingley on 8th September, Knaresborough Ringing Station on 9th, Blacktoft Sands on 16th and in the Little Don Valley on 25th.

36 passed south at Spurn on 9th September, by far the highest number of the year, no more than six being seen on any one day from 24th July to end of September and singles there on 14th and 17th October.

Rock Pipit Anthus spinoletta

Some southward passage at Spurn during the autumn with maxima of 28 on 19th October, 13 on 20th, 42 on 24th and 25 on 25th.

Inland occurrences were fewer than in 1973 with records from only five localities. Single birds at Swillington on 6th and 20th January, Auston S.F. in October, Wintersett Res. on 26th October. Settle on 1st November, Fairburn Ings on 3rd and 4th November and 1st December. In addition several were at Blacktoft Sands with one to two during January and up to 18 to February. One to three from mid-October, five in November and early December and three to year end.

The Scandinavial Rock Pipit A.s.littoralis has been shown to be a regular passage bird in the spring through Hornsea Mere and at other places on the coast. The racial distinction between this form and the Water Pipit is not easy and some past determinations as the latter may have been wrong. Some individuals are remarlably pale blue/grey on the head and upper mantle and great care should be exercised when these birds are encountered. Full plumage details are being recorded of the birds at Hornsea Mere and it is intended to publish this information as soon as possible.

Scandinavian Rock Pipits passing at Hornsea Mere were from 22nd March to 20th April with up to three at end of March (RGH). Singles also occurred at Brough Haven from 9th February to 2nd March and at Flamborough on 10th March (DIMW).

Birds claimed as Water Pipits were at Brough Haven on 27th March (DIMW), Cupwith Res., near Huddersfield, on 20th January (JED) and at Wintersett Res. from 20th to 24th March (PS).

Addition to 1973 Report: A Water Pipit was on Coatham Marsh on 28th December (DGB).

Pied Wagtail Motacilla alba

Several roosts were reported, some holding large numbers; 300 at Potteric Carr on 21st August, 260 flying over Ilkley in 20 minutes to a moorland roost on 28th August (FAW), up to 400 in a small typha bed at Hay-a-Park G.P., Knaresborough during early October (RE.JRM), and 300 at Wath Ings on 3rd September. Small numbers were noted flying to roost at the Brewery in Tadcaster during the early and late months with 69 flying out between 0735 and 0805 hours on 15th December (SML).

Birds showing the characters of M.a.alba were identified, mainly singly, at 15 localities from March to May.

Grey Wagtail Motacilla cinerea

A pair bred again in the north-west of V.C.61. A pair nested at an altitude of 1,400 feet on Cronkley Fell in Upper Teesdale (IHF). Elsewhere, occurred normally with good numbers reported in the autumn, nine at Darley S.F. on 6th September, six at Eccup Res. on 8th September, and five at Fairburn Ings on 30th September as maxima.

Yellow Wagtail Motacilla flava

First of year was at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 8th April with singles at Harrogate S.F. and Ben Rhydding G.P. on 10th, two at Fairburn Ings on 11th and one at Adel Dam on 13th

Autumn assemblies were 53 at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 11th September, birds lingering into early October with singles on 3rd, 5th, and 9th. 200 at a roost at Wintersett Res. on 7th August. Up to 72 roosted at Fairburn Ings during late August and 73 were at Swillington Ings on 12th and 13th September. The last was at Fairburn Ings on 13th October.

Single birds showing characters of the Blue-headed Wagtail M.f.flava were at Spurn on 28th April and 31st May.

Waxwing Bombycilla garrulus

A few stayed over from 1973 and were recorded at eight widely scattered localities, three birds being the maximum.

Occurred from 21st October to the year end in varying numbers. The first were singles at Spurn and Hornsea on 21st October, inland areas having birds from mid-November to year end.

The coastal towns and the centre of the county were the most favoured, especially around Harrogate and south through Otley, Bradford and Huddersfield to Sheffield no doubt due to the suburban complexes and their attendent garden and parkland food trees. Maxima during the period November/December were up to 50 at Harrogate, 46 at Otley, 79 at Bradford (in one tree), 61 at Huddersfield, 50 at Sheffield, 55 at Whitby and 70 at Scarborough. A few smaller flocks of up to 35 birds and several of single figures were seen in the same areas.

Great Grey Shrike Lanius excubitor

Recorded from seventeen localities from January to 12th April and at 30 places from early October to year end. Occurrences were widespread over most of the county.

The first of autumn was at Spurn on 2nd October with singles at Filey and Flamborough 3rd and at Wath Ings on 5th. Single birds were mainly involved but two on Thorne Moor in late January and again in November. Spurn had up to four daily from 2nd to 19th October.

Red-backed Shrike Lanius collurio

A better year than last with several coastal records and two inland.

Occurred singly at Spurn on 30th May and on 8th to 9th and 14th June and in autumn from 31st August to 3rd September, two on 12th and one on 15th September and one on 15th October.

A male at Hornsea Mere on 16th June (RGH) and one at Cottingham on 12th (SML). A juvenile at Hornsea Mere from 10th to 13th September and one at Flamborough on 29th.

One was inland at Thorne Moor on 14th September (ML.CW) and a juvenile at Normanton from 18th to 21st September (PDK).

Starling Sturnus vulgaris

Several large roost flights and actual roosts were recorded during the winter months. Notable flights were over Fairburn Ings during the winter months with from 20,000 to 50,000 regularly involved. A roost at Goldsborough held up to 100,000 birds during December (RE) and one at Wentworth Woodhouse held 200,000 on 3rd February (RW).

Immigration was evident at Spurn from early October with daily maxima of 1,900 on 18th October, 4,000 on 16th November, 3,000 on 29th and 1,200 on 21st December. Birds were seen coming in over the sea on many October dates, 100 on 15th, 118 on 21st, 128 on 29th, 213 on 30th and 700 on 31st. Inland areas had notable influxes during October.

Hawfinch Coccothraustes coccothraustes

No records from V.C.65 but in all others as follows:

V.C.61: Five at Garrowby on 7th April (SCM).

V.C.62: Four at Rievaulx on 14th July (BEP),

V.C.63: Singles at Potteric Carr in January, Brockadale in July (JDP), in the Porter Valley, Sheffield, in August (RB) and Esholt in December (LM). At least one pair bred near Doncaster and two females were trapped in June, one having been ringed in 1971.

V.C.64: Bred at Studley Park with a family party of five seen on 22nd August (EK) and a flock of six on 30th November. Occurred near Ripon in spring and autumn, one to two birds being seen (DTMcA.CS). Singles at Knaresborough on 14th April (AFGW), Ilkley in March and Swinsty in August. Two at Bolton Abbey on 31st March (ECS). A pair at Fairburn Ings on 3rd March and one from 4th to 11th April (CW.et al.). A pair near Clifton, York on 2nd May (PM).

Greenfinch Carduelis chloris

Spurn had 1,500 on 3rd November and 1,000 on 15th as its maxima 'down' on the peninsula (southward passage occurred on both dates). Movement down the peninsula was recorded on several dates from September to December with maxima of 733 on 6th October, 631 on 24th, 1,477 on 3rd November (see above), and 1,000 on 15th December.

The largest number inland was 1,000 roosting on Thorne Moor on 26th January with up to 300 at the year end (SLJ.ML). 500 were at Melton Wood, Doncaster during the winter months (WGD). A roost at Fairburn Ings held 530 on 26th October, 300 at Blacktoft Sands on 20th January and 250 on 30th October and during November (AG). 200 fed on persicaria at Ben Rhydding in September (MVB). 200 near Hackness on 3rd March (IJP).

Goldfinch Carduelis carduelis

Inland flocks were again large and plentiful during the autumn. Assemblies of up to 50 birds came from nine localities in V.C.'s 63 and 64 and some larger flocks were reported; 75 at Potteric Carr on 6th August, 70 at Ben Rhydding on 26th August, 70 at Masham on 15th September, 75 at Blacktoft Sands on 31st August and 1st September and 80 near Ripon on 21st September. 100 were at Settle on 5th September (BS) and 50 to 100 were on the York University Campus during late August and September.

Southerly passage at Spurn was noted in April, May and June and from September to November. 223 on 11th May, 200 on 17th and 244 on 18th were spring maxima. In autumn, 285 on 6th October, 135 on 25th, 70 on 3rd November and 74 on 10th.

Siskin Cardeulis spinus

Flocks were certainly smaller than in 1973 with only one of three figures: 100 at Barden on 7th November. The only other flock in excess of 25 was at Gouthwaite Res. where there were 30 during February and March and 40 on 15th September. Nine were singing at Gouthwaite Res. on 6th April, the last Nidderdale date of the spring. Autumn return inland was from 13th September (Gouthwaite Res.) but Spurn had singles on 10th and 11th, 27 on 12th and 50 on 13th September. 15 were at Bempton on 16th. 25 were at Stocks Res. on 14th (MVB) and 10 were at Settle on same date (BS). 208 flew south at Spurn on 10th November with smaller numbers during October and up to 24th November.

Two pairs bred and were seen with young in the west of V.C.63 on 21st July. One was at Cawthorne on 21st August. A pair were seen nest-building at Birdsall, V.C.62, on 14th April and seen on several later dates (RHA). One was in Keldy Forest on 4th May (LS).

Linnet Carduelis cannabina

Passage at Spurn was southerly in both spring and autumn. Spring maxima were 250 on 11th April, 497 on 27th, 553 on 11th May, 350 on 12th and 183 on 19th with 262 on 1st June. Autumn passage was in progress from 9th September to mid-November. Daily maxima were 392 on 28th September, 825 on 6th October and 600 on 10th, 220 on 3rd November and 126 on 23rd. Some flew north on four days in April with 136 on 11th and 313 on 21st.

Inland flocks of up to 100 birds were recorded at several localities in the autumn and there were nine flocks of up to 200 reported. 550 were at a roost on Thorne Moor on 26th January and 350 on December. 600 roosted at Wintersett Res. in early September and 500 at Wath Ings on 18th September and 20th October and 400 at Blacktoft Sands on 14th September and 14th October.

Twite Acanthis flavirostris

The ornithological reports of ten years ago and before gave no hint of the numbers of Twite that have been recorded in recent years and the increase must be real.

Widely distributed as a breeding species on the moors of the south-west from Keighley to the southern county boundary.

Some large flocks were reported on the high ground in autumn. 200 were on Malham Moor in August and during September (BS.MVB). 100 on Sutton Moor on 28th July (DH). 70 near Horton-in-Ribblesdale on 11th September (BS). 40 on Greenhow Hill, near Pately Bridge, on 29th September and 20 on 12th October (PJC). A small flock at Ben Rhydding G.P. from 8th April to 6th May peaked at 20 birds (MVB.FAW). 100 at Ringstone Edge on 12th September (JED), and 110 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 14th September (PB). 45 were at Skeffling on 2nd November (AG).

The only flock in the early months was 180 at Scammonden on 28th March (JED).

Several other places, including low ground, had odd birds in the autumn and winter months.

Numbers at Spurn were high with 60 to 120 in the Warren area fields during September and up to 80 in early October, 45 on 22nd October. Up to 30 regularly in December and smaller numbers on intervening dates. Finch passage included many Twites: 96 on 29th September, 120 on 5th October, 45 on 18th October and 116 on 17th November were maxima.

Redpoll Acanthis flammea

Abundant in the autumn and the species obviously had a successful breeding season. Flocks of under 100 birds were reported from several localities during October/November, larger flocks being 150 at Gouthwaite Res. in November and Roundhill Res. in December. 220 flew north in small parties over Fairburn Ings on 3rd November (CW). 150 at Wyming Brook, Sheffield on 2nd November and 100 on Thorne Moor on 16th. 350 at Cold Heindley Res. on 6th October.

A vast influx of young birds at Melton Wood, Doncaster during July and 480 were caught and ringed by the year end (WGD). 100 were feeding amongst winter greens at East Ayton on

27th January (WAC). 200 were in a mixed flock of 3,000 finches on weeds in sugar beet at Brayton, Selby from 7th October to year end (PR).

One at Spurn on 28th April was showing characters of the Mealy Redpoll A.f. flammea.

Bullfinch Pyrrhula pyrrhula

28 on Thorne Moor on 9th December (ML) and 19 at North Dean Wood. Halifax on 23rd December (ADW). Elsewhere widely reported and in numbers indicating successful breeding.

Scarlet Rosefinch Carpodacus erythrinus

One caught at Spurn on 11th September (TJB.et al.).

Accepted by British Birds Rarities Committee.

Crossbill Loxia curvirostra

Very few reported in contrast to 1973.

V.C.63: Two at Strines on 4th May (DH.DG), nine in the Little Don Valley on 24th June (MT) and one at Wyming Brook, Sheffield on 22nd December.

V.C.64: A pair at Fairburn Ings on 29th April (CW) and eight at Stocks Res. on 26th October (MVB).

Chaffinch Fringilla coelebs

A flock of 1,000 at Dale Dyke Res., west of Sheffield, on 24th December is by far the largest number reported in recent years. 100 at Denton on 3rd March (FAW). 300 finches near Arthington Viaduct during January were mainly Chaffinches. 200 at Hackness on 9th March (IJP). 200 near Langsett on 2nd March and 200 at Creskeld, near Leeds, during November/December. 200 were at Stape in V.C.62 on 13th April. Flocks elsewhere were small and nowhere exceeded 50 birds.

Brambling Fringilla montifringilla

Flocks in the early months were large and reports came mainly from V.C.63.

V.C.62 had 2,000 at Sherriff Hutton on 16th March (LGD), and 75% of a flock of ca. 1,000 finches at East Ayton on 27th January were Bramblings (WAC). ca. 150 at Seamer G.P. on 7th April (AJW).

V.C.63: 100 at Melton Wood and Stanley S.F. during January to April (WGD.CEA), 150 at a roost on Thorne Moor on 4th April and of 1,600 finches there on 9th April, most were Bramblings (WHP). 250 at Redmires on 21st January (KVT) and 300 at Potteric Carr on 5th January. Coastal records were few and the spring withdrawal of the large inland flocks was not evidenced. Numbers at the year end were much smaller with 300 at Bretton Park in mid-December the maximum (DP.et al.).

A male was on Thorne Moor on 1st May and one sang at Flamborough on 9th May (SCM). One at Strensall on 7th May. Five at Hornsea Mere from 4th to 6th May including some singing birds and a male sang there on 13th May (RGH).

One at Bempton on 30th August was very early for Yorkshire wherever its origin (SCM). Spurn had the first birds of autumn on 12th September (five) with 30 on 13th.

Amendment to 1973 Report: 100 at Staveley on 18th July should read 18th February.

Corn Bunting Emberiza calandra

A gathering of ca. 1,000 at a roost on Wath Ings on 17th November was exceptional for the county (JH). 70 were at the same place on 24th March and 120 on 24th October. The only other flocks were 45 at Blacktoft Sands in mid-February, 40 at Burnt Ings, near Doncaster on 21st April and at a reed-bed roost at Fairburn Ings where 20 were counted on 4th May and up to 17 were regular during the winter months.

Addition to 1973 Report: A winter roost at Hornsea Mere held 220 birds on 16th January (DJB).

Yellowhammer Emberiza citrinella

Flocks were small and 40 at Eccup Res. in mid-March and 40 near Ripon in December were the largest reported. Nowhere else did flocks exceed 35 and most were well below that figure.

Black-headed Bunting Emberiza melanocephala

A male at Spurn on 28th August. Published with the escape proviso.

Ortolan Bunting Emberiza hortulana

One at Spurn on 11th and 12th September.

Reed Bunting Emberiza schoeniclus

A roost at Blacktoft Sands had 500 during January and February and 500 as the autumn maximum on 14th October. At least 140 pairs bred there (AG).

62 males were counted in song at Mickletown Ings during June and early July (RLB). Wath Ings roost had 400 on 3rd October, 300 on 3rd November and 500 on 17th November (JH), 80 at Swillington on 26th August and 80 on Thorne Moor on 20th October (ML). 40 at Fairburn Ings on 15th April and at Knaresborough Ringing Station, passage in late March and April peaked at 22 males and five females on 28th March.

Some southward passage in autumn was noted at Spurn with 112 on 6th October and 120 on 17th as maxima.

A male singing at Cronkley Bridge in June was the only record for Upper Teesdale (IHF).

Lapland Bunting Calcarius lapponicus

Spurn had one on 1st January and 12 on 20th. The only other record in the early months was one at Bempton on 24th April (SCM).

The first autumn bird was at Spurn from 30th August to 5th September and singles were seen on 12th and 28th September. In October, one on 3rd and 16th, four on 19th, one on 24th and two on 26th with one to two birds from 2nd to 5th November and two on 23rd.

Two at Filey from 5th to 26th October (RHA) and singles at Flamborough on 6th, 20th and 21st with six on 2nd November, one at Easington on 10th October, four at Fraisthorpe on 2nd December and eight on 6th.

One was at Blacktoft Sands on 31st October (AG) and another on 16th November (JB).

Snow bunting Plectrophenax nivalis

Spurn had 30 on 1st January, and from one to three on a few dates up to end of March with five on 3rd March. 11 at Saltend on 3rd March and singles at Bempton on 14th and up to 24th April. The only other early records were one at Malham on 11th January and one at Blacktoft Sands on 22nd February.

Good numbers appeared in the late months, the first being five at Filey on 19th September, whereafter the species occurred at several coastal localities including some very large flocks; up to 46 at Filey during late October and on 14th December, 44 at Hornsea Mere on 24th November, 100 at Bempton on 29th November and 200 on 2nd December. 850 at Atwick on 8th and 9th December was a remarkable assembly (SML.RGH) and ca. 300 were there on 12th December.

Maxima at Spurn were 72 flying south on 10th November, 154 on 16th and 40 on 24th December.

There were several inland records with 23 on Thorne Moor in two parties on 17th November (WHP) on which date 15 were on the Lower Derwent Floods (GS). 14 were on Cronkley Fell, Upper Teesdale on 26th November (IHF), 11 on Malham Moor on 11th December (BS) and 11 near Farndale Moor on 14th December (DJB). 11 on Whiteside Moor on 28th November and 35 at Oxnop, above Askrigg on 18th December (DTM). One at Thorpe, near Skipton on 3rd January, two above Gouthwaite Res. during December and one at Barden Bridge on 16th April (PGJ) and singles at Wintersett Res. on 16th November, near

Huddersfield on 4th December and Fly Flatts, near Halifax, from 14th November to year end. 20 at Malham on 7th December (PMW.JCL).

Addition to 1973 Report: 75 were on Coatham Marsh on 7th December (DJB).

Tree Sparrow Passer montanus

130 at Mickleton Ings on 18th April and a few large flocks reported in the autumn: ca. 300 at Esholt S.F. on 11th July, 100 near Bardsey on 9th September, 120 at Ben Rhydding on 19th October and 150 at Colston Lane End, Ilkley, on 24th December (MVB). 262 were at Spurn on 27th October.

The following species also occurred in the county during 1974:

Mute Swan Cygnus olor, Pheasant Phasianus colchicus, Moorhen Gallinula chloropus, Woodcock Scalopax rusticola, Little Owl Athene noctua, Tawny Owl Strix aluco, Rook Corvus frugilegus, Great Tit Parus major, Blue Tit Parus caeruleus, Coal Tit Parus ater, Tree Creeper Certhia familiaris, Robin Erithacus rubecula, House Sparrow Passer domesticus.

List of contributors whose initials appear in the classified list (with apologies for any omissions). Many others contributed and their records were invaluable.

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